

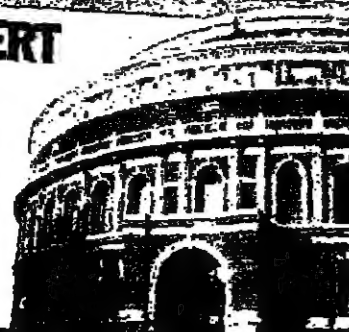
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Barbara Follett has upset Tory Stevenage

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No to Blair-style 'one member, one vote'

Left defeats NUT plan for reform

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MILITANT teachers inflicted a devastating defeat on moderates trying to extend democracy in Britain's biggest teaching union yesterday when they threw out "one member, one vote" reforms limiting the powers of local branches and the national conference.

Leaders of the National Union of Teachers had proposed automatic ballots on conference decisions in a package reminiscent of Tony Blair's new Labour reforms. But every element was voted down in a humiliating rebuff for Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, who described it as a sad day for the NUT.

The proposed changes had been supported by almost 85 per cent of 39,000 members who voted in a union poll, but leftwingers at the conference in Cardiff said that the 19 per cent turnout was too low to be a reliable guide.

They went on to win the key vote to refer the ballots idea back to the union executive by 28,000 votes, and with the executive swinging further to the left this year, the scheme may now be dead.

Mr McAvoy said that the decision might cost the union members' "because teachers would see that far-left groups were clinging to power. His fears were reinforced by Nigel de Grandy of the National Union of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, who said that the votes would help his union to overtake the NUT. The NUT has 175,000

members, compared with 300,000 in the Sides; NAS/UTW membership has risen to 157,000.

Mr McAvoy insisted, however, that he would continue to press for the kind of union that would have resulted had the conference accepted his recommendations. "I find it difficult to understand what justification delegates have for rejecting the proposal that conference decisions should be put to members for endorsement," he said.

"Some of those who claim to represent their members know that they do not do so, but are determined anyway to keep in their hands the power to determine union policy."

Apart from rejecting Mr McAvoy's reforms, the conference maintained its reputation for militancy in a number of

fields. Delegates called for strikes in any schools where teachers were "victimised" as a result of the new school inspection system, which they said should be scrapped. They also said that "hit squads" for failing schools should be disbanded and demanded walk-outs at premises that are considered unsafe. Today, if time permits, the conference will vote on a new boycott of classroom tests.

In the debate on union democracy, Graham Smith from Newham, east London, said that the NUT had been hijacked by a minority. Most teachers had neither the time nor the inclination to attend "tedious" union meetings.

"People get there to be greeted by raucous newspaper sellers. They get inside to be subjected to a long harangue by half a dozen sad individuals about the need to waste their own money on the Socialist Workers' Party." The proposed reforms, he said, were "our opportunity to start reclaiming this union for the overwhelming majority of members."

But Bill Goodswen of Kirkcaldy said the reforms would herald "tick box" democracy that was an insult to trade union values, and Jane Coombs of east London, said: "I came to conference having been ratified by members in a ballot. Why do I need to be ratified again?"

Activists' strategy, page 2



Head tells of school arson

A primary school headmistress told last night of a campaign of intimidation waged against her after she identified youths who broke into a teacher's car.

Judith Elderkin said six weeks of terror came to a head on Sunday night with an arson attack on Marlborough Road Infants' School in Salford, Greater Manchester. Mrs Elderkin, a member of the National Union of Teachers' executive, spoke about her ordeal as the union demanded new measures to improve school security. Doug McAvoy, the General Secretary, said the school shared many of the problems of access and a lack of perimeter fencing that concerned the union nationally.

The reign of terror began just days after Mrs Elderkin and two colleagues helped police to identify a number of youths who broke into a teacher's car and stole a radio. Almost 40 windows were broken in one weekend bout of vandalism. A few days later Mrs Elderkin found a group of youths on the school roof. When she ordered them down, they responded with a hail of stones.

Salford Education Authority posted a 24-hour guard on the school, at a cost of £1,800 a week. The guards themselves were taunted by local teenagers for "protecting grasses".

One was inside the building when fire broke out on Sunday.

Speaking at the NUT's conference, Mrs Elderkin said: "I came to the conference feeling fairly secure because the school was being guarded, but I did not imagine for a moment what would ensue. Schools should be a safe haven."

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Judith Elderkin: attacked



Coventry striker Dion Dublin, right, comforts team-mate Dave Buss after an accidental collision in which he broke his leg so badly that it required three hours of surgery last night and could threaten his livelihood (Rob Hughes writes). The accident came at Old Trafford, Manchester United's ground, and drained a 30,332 holiday crowd of the

Moment of horror silences fans

relish of Manchester United going for the championship, or the fear of Coventry City perhaps going down. Buss, 28, was stretching in search of the fifth goal of his career. He crashed against United's Irish international Denis Irwin, and instantly the whole

ground fell into a hush. The leg was at a grotesque angle, and it took nine minutes to swab the goalmouth clear of blood, after part of the bone had come through the flesh. Dublin, whose own career as a Manchester United player was ended by a badly broken

leg, was on hand as Coventry's captain to try to console Buss, along with Liam Naish, left, and the Manchester United player Brian McClair. "You hope never to see that in a young, clean-cut defender, you never want it to happen," commented Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager. He was the only man willing to speak of the accident, a compound fracture. The 22 players fled away ashen-faced from a match that, if anyone still cared, was ultimately won by a single goal from Manchester United's Eric Cantona.

Match report, page 19

Plastic bullets fired at rioting loyalists

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

RIOT police opened fire with plastic bullets last night after loyalists in Belfast attacked RUC officers with bottles and petrol bombs.

The most serious rioting in Northern Ireland since last summer's marching season, an elderly woman had a suspected heart attack as police clashed with up to 1,000 loyalists on the Ormeau Road in south Belfast. The loyalists threw empty beer bottles, metal bars and planks at the police and broke into a garage to try to set fire to the roof. The RUC later blamed outsiders for orchestrating the unrest.

The rioting began about 5pm after a tense stand-off between the marchers and the RUC that had continued all day. Loyalists were furious that the RUC had banned the Apprentice Boys from marching along the nationalist Lower Falls Road.

Police in armoured vehicles blocked off the road at first light to prevent the parade from passing through at 7.30am. This led to sporadic

skirmishes in which three police officers and two civilians were injured.

The violence increased when a loyalist band from Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, joined the protest late in the afternoon and staged an impromptu march down the Ormeau Road in support of the Apprentice Boys. As the band tried to force its way through the police blockade on the Ormeau Bridge, officers in riot gear were ordered to disperse the loyalists.

Shortly afterwards, another loyalist band tried to march through the police lines. Within minutes, masked loyalists ran out of side streets and threw petrol bombs at the police lines. Officers retaliated by firing scores of plastic bullets into the crowd.

Sinn Féin begrudgingly praised the RUC for rerouting the march. Pat McGeown, chairman of the Sinn Féin group on Belfast City Council, said it was insulting for loyalists to march through a nationalist area.

London shares fall feared

Shares in London are expected to fall sharply today after stocks and bonds plummeted in New York in delayed reaction to buoyant US employment figures published on Good Friday. Trading was temporarily halted to restore calm but the Dow Jones industrial average had fallen 138.73 points, or 2.44 per cent, by midday. Page 36

Liberia peace collapses

Fighting in Liberia between government troops and supporters of a deposed warlord was believed to be spreading and tens of thousands of people sought refuge in diplomatic compounds in Monrovia. Many thousands have fled the capital for the Ivory Coast. Page 9

Skier killed

A British woman died after falling 1000ft on to rocks while skiing off-piste in the French Alps. The 32-year-old from London, whose identity was not released, was skiing with her husband at 7,260 feet near Grave.

Mackay seeks curb on European court

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor is to make an unprecedented visit to Strasbourg next month to seek backing from other countries for curbs on the European Court of Human Rights.

The proposals for restricting the court's powers come after a series of embarrassing rulings, which has put Britain almost at the top of the league table for breaches of the European Convention on Human Rights. The court held recently that the Government was wrong to order a journalist to disclose his sources. In February the Home Secretary was held to have no right to specify when child killers should be released.

A document outlining Britain's position has been drawn up by the Foreign Office and issued to all 38 members of the Council of Europe, which have power to alter the court's procedures. Lord Mackay of Clashfern will put Britain's case for greater controls on the way the court's judges are selected and a strengthening of the principle that the court should not interfere with "long-standing laws and practices" except where "manifestly contrary to the convention".

In particular, the Government wants to ensure that the court pays "full regard to the decisions by democratic legislatures and differing legal traditions".

The initiative coincides with a move for curbs on the European Court of Justice at the European Union's inter-governmental conference and the reform of the human rights court. Lord Mackay and the Government will seek to reduce the influence of the reorganised court. The proposals include informal vetting of judges before their nomination.

There is concern that the quality of judgments may be weakened because of the rapidly expanding size of the Council of Europe.

A further proposal is for some kind of pre-trial procedure, as is common in English courts, to "hone" down the issues.



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Son of castle maid hopes DNA tests will show he is heir to wealthy estates

Welsh car worker wants to exhume laird he believes is his grandfather

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

A WELSH car worker plans to apply to the Scottish courts in the next few weeks to exhume the body of a distinguished aristocrat for DNA testing in an attempt to prove that he is the man's illegitimate grandson.

Ken Matthews, who lives near Swansea, wants to exhume the body of Andrew Mansel Talbot Fletcher, 10th Laird of Saltoun, who died in 1951 and is buried in the family vault in the churchyard at East Saltoun, near Haddington, Lothian, and who was the owner of valuable estates in Scotland and Epping.

Mr Matthews is convinced that he is the laird's grandson and a descendant of Andrew "The Patriot" Fletcher, who died in 1716 and occupies a special place in Scottish history as one of the strongest opponents of the Union with England.

Mr Matthews, the father of a teenage son, has spent years trying to unravel his family history. He was born in a workhouse in Wales in 1937 and nine months after his birth was given up for adoption, a fact he discovered only as an adult. Attempts to trace his parents were initially unfruitful as adoption papers which should have been lodged in the court in Neath were missing.

Eventually, spurred on by a mysterious illness which may prove to be hereditary, he discovered that his mother was Ivy Pinn, a maid at Margam Castle, near Swansea, which was owned by the Fletchers before being sold in the late 1930s. He traced two half-sisters who told him about his mother, who had died in 1988, before he had a chance to meet her. But they could give him little information



Ivy Pinn, she worked at Margam Castle in 1930s

Laird of Saltoun, and that he was Mr Matthews' father. Mr Matthews has been told that the laird and the chambermaid were relatively open about their relationship and were often seen together.

Mr Fletcher's marriage to Nora Gabbett-Mullenhan in 1933 was dissolved after four years, within days of Ivy giving birth to her son. The couple had no children. Ivy was sent away and all links with the castle were cut.

In August 1994, Mr Matthews and his wife visited the 4,000-acre Copped Hall estate in Essex where Mr Fletcher was living, aged 90. According to Mrs Matthews, Mr Fletcher had been friendly until they mentioned the name of Ivy Pinn. Then he clammed up and they were asked to leave.

A request for a blood sample from Mr Fletcher for DNA testing was met with a "curt rebuff" from his solicitors, according to Mrs Matthews. In April last year Mr Fletcher died and was cremated. His estate passed to his nephew, Andrew Fletcher.

Mrs Matthews insists her husband is not motivated solely by money, although the Fletcher estate is said to be worth millions. Jock Fletcher had inherited money from his spinster great-aunt, Emily Talbot, one of the richest women of her day, whose family gave its name to Port Talbot.

Mr Matthews suffers from fainting fits and is anxious to discover whether the condition is hereditary. Mrs Matthews said: "This is a very frustrating time. Ken needs to find out what is wrong with him and what causes the fainting. The only way he can do this is by tracing his family, but we've been blocked at every turn."

The Matthews have the backing of their MP, Don Anderson, and are intent on pursuing their claim through the Scottish courts. A firm of Scottish solicitors has been appointed and Mrs Matthews says an application for an order to exhume the body of Andrew Fletcher will be made soon.



Ken Matthews at Margam Castle. His wife insists that he is not motivated solely by the Fletchers' wealth

Such applications, although rare in Scotland, are not unprecedented. An application is made through the relevant Sheriff Court and the Sheriff decides whether or not to grant the order.

If Mr Matthews can establish a link with the Fletchers, he will be able to claim Scottish ancestry of a high distinction. Andrew "The Patriot" Fletcher was the eldest son of a prosperous laird, Sir Robert Fletcher of Saltoun,

and inherited the title at the age of 12.

His mother, Katherine Bruce, claimed descent from the grandfather of Robert the Bruce. In 1955 a plaque was erected to him by the Saltire Society at East Saltoun church. Every September the society organises a meeting at the church to honour his memory.

Mr Matthews' plans to pursue his claim will be resisted strongly by the Fletcher family. William Barr, of the Cambridge solicitors Mills & Reeve, said: "Asking to exhume other people's relatives is to put it mildly, in extremely bad taste. Mr Matthews' claims are completely without legal foundation and any attempt at exhumation will be very strongly resisted."



Jock Fletcher and his great-aunt, Emily Talbot, one of the richest women of the late Victorian era

Twins in canal had given up careers

By STEWART TENDLER

IDENTICAL twins killed and dumped in a London canal abandoned promising careers and a middle-class home to become alcoholic beggars, police said yesterday.

Anthony Langford, 38, once trained as a solicitor and Christopher worked as a landscape gardener for a council near their home at Bromham, Bedfordshire. But the red-headed boys, sons of a school-teacher, became alcoholics before they were 20 and died with a reputation as drunken fighters and beggars.

When sober they were quiet and intelligent; drunk, they were a different story. One voluntary worker said yesterday: "They were fiery haired and fiery natured. When they got drunk all the unhappiness came out."

Their bodies were found 50 yards apart in a stretch of the Regent's Canal in Islington, north London, close to public gardens where they sometimes slept. Christopher's body was found on March 26. He had head injuries which at first were thought to have been caused by a boat's propeller. Police could not identify him.

Anthony's body, wrapped in a blue blanket, was found last week. He had been beaten around the head. A policeman recognised him and the two bodies were later linked.

Police believe they had both been in the water for some weeks. They probably died at about the same time, possibly close to their birthday on March 12. In the next few days police will drain the canal where the bodies were found.

Detectives believe clues to the deaths could lie among other down and outs. The two men may have died in a fight with other alcoholics or they may have been involved in buying small amounts of amphetamines, run up debts and fought over the money.

Last night their family remained silent at the three-bedroom family home. The twins also had an older sister and brother. Their mother left when they were quite young and their father remarried. The twins kept in touch with birthday cards and messages but never returned to the family home in Bromham.

Academic claims Shakespeare was closet Catholic

By ALAN HAMILTON

A PLAY long seen as one of Shakespeare's lighter romantic comedies is in truth a daringly subversive attack on Elizabeth I's persecution of Roman Catholics, according to an Oxford academic.

Love's Labour's Lost has puzzled scholars, convinced there must be more to it than a daff story of French courtiers who take an oath of celibacy, only to find themselves challenged by a group of women.

Now Margaret Stoker, a fellow of St Hilda's College and a lecturer in English literature, claims to have cracked the code and to have exposed the playwright traditionally seen as head of public relations for the Protestant Tudor dynasty as a campaigner for minority Catholic rights.

Dr Stoker, 40, found her first clue in Shakespeare's naming of his daughters Susanna and Judith. "The names are taken from the Apocrypha, books of the Bible denounced as bogus by the Protestant establishment of the time. They demonstrate the playwright's determination not to

bow to the authorities." Ten years after Judith was born, Shakespeare wrote Love's Labour's Lost.

"The play's central figure of the princess is cunningly imbued with many of the characteristics of the biblical Judith, regarded by Catholics as their heroine. Judith's biblical enemy Holofernes also appears in the play, as a repellent schoolmaster of the same name."

According to Dr Stoker, the play also contains cryptic references to contemporary political events. The theme of sexual intrigue at the King of Navarre's court is a satire on Henry IV of France's cynical conversion to Catholicism in order to gain the throne.

Dr Stoker, whose conclusions appear in the new edition of the Shakespeare Yearbook, said: "Love's Labour's Lost is Shakespeare's most enigmatic play but, when set in historic context, its meaning becomes startlingly clear. The play is shot through with clever anti-Protestant gibes." Shakespeare clung to his Catholic faith despite the dan-



Stoker: reinterpreted Love's Labour's Lost

gers, she says. "Writing Love's Labour's Lost was a terrifically daring. It gives us a new view of our most famous playwright as a subversive rather than an establishment toady." Anne Barton, professor of English at Cambridge, said Dr Stoker's theory "sounds like rubbish to me. I thought we had got away from using Love's Labour's Lost as a secret play containing all kinds of hidden messages. Shakespeare's father probably died a Catholic though he had done everything to present himself as a conforming Protestant, but there is no proof whatever about Shakespeare himself."

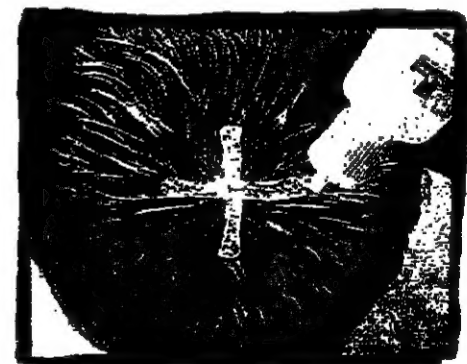
"Love's Labour's Lost is a wonderfully Elizabethan play, full of pyrotechnics and wordplay, that has no need of elaborate theories."

Ramsden's serves up fish and chip record

THE world record for sales of fish and chips was broken when more than 12,100 portions were served at Harry Ramsden's in Melbourne on Good Friday. There was a queue of up to half a mile for what Egon Ronay has described as Britain's "most distinctive contribution to world cuisine."

The first portions were served at 7.45am and by closing time about two tonnes of haddock, imported from Britain, had been fried. The previous record, of 11,900 portions, was set in 1992 at Harry Ramsden's in Glasgow, according to the Guinness Book of Records.

Harry Ramsden opened his first chip shop in 1929 in Guiseley, West Yorkshire. It became famous for hosting a fish-and-chip eating marathon in 1952. The Melbourne branch opened last year. There are branches in Hong Kong and Dublin and plans to open in Jeddah, Singapore and Spain. The publicly owned company had pre-tax profits of nearly £1 million last year.



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Princess's private face goes on show

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A STUNNING portrait of the Princess of Wales went on public show for the first time yesterday, two years after its creation. Shaded by melancholy, it involved more than 50 hours of sittings during her unhappy summer of 1994.

The near life-size painting, which shows a thoughtful Princess in a green Catherine Walker taffeta skirt and a billowing white chiffon blouse by Tomasz Starzewski, has been temporarily shipped to a Manhattan exhibition from Kensington Palace.

The subject is said to be pleased by the outcome, which shows her with head tilted, gazing sideways. Her sapphire engagement ring is unavoidable. In the background, a faint line suggests a

door that could be opened. The painter, the American artist Nelson Shanks, disclosed that the Princess was an occasionally restive sitter who had "the most unforgettable eyes I have ever seen". She talked to him of her personal troubles, as well as music. She "loved disco music and loved classical".

Sittings were held in a studio on Tite Street, Chelsea, during the same period that Mr Shanks was also painting Baroness Thatcher, who "posed like a statue for three hours at a time". When Mr Shanks's infant daughter Annalissa started to cry one morning, Lady Thatcher picked her up and recited *Baa Black Sheep* in a statesmanlike manner. The little



The princess sat in 1994

girl was quelled instantly. The summer of 1994 also saw a new peak of press speculation about the Princess's personal life, including her relationship with James Hewitt. The portrait is part of an exhibition at the Hirsch &

Adler gallery entitled Yanks Paint Brits. Other paintings include George III by Benjamin West and John Lennon by Andy Warhol.

A landowner defended his reputation yesterday after he was forced to resign from the Queen's Scottish bodyguard, the Royal Company of Archers, for letting Duns Castle to an American TV company to represent Balmoral in a film about the Hewitt affair. Alexander Hay said: "The film is not about the Queen - it is about Princess Diana, on a subject she has admitted is true."

Lord Palmer, a member of the biscuit dynasty, was also forced to resign for letting Manderston House, also in the Borders, represent Kensington Palace and Highgrove.

Heavyweight tenants sought for rooms in Hampton Court



Henry VIII: tenants may live where he once loved

By ALAN HAMILTON

HENRY VIII's majestic residence by the Thames at Hampton Court, the largest and grandest royal palace in Britain, could soon be taking in tenants.

The Historic Royal Palaces Agency, which has adopted a far more commercially aggressive approach since taking over the running of the palace from the Department of the Environment five years ago, is considering turning up to 60 of Hampton Court's 1,500 rooms into private residential apartments and letting them on the open market.

Plans to turn some of the

hundreds of empty rooms into a discreet hotel have been quietly dropped as inappropriate. But two apartments, including the former quarters of the Mistress of the Puddings near the Tudor kitchens, have already been converted into short-let holiday flats and more may be made available. But there will be no freeholds as it is a royal palace, no part of Hampton Court can be sold.

More space is becoming available as grace-and-favour residences, of which Hampton Court had 27, gradually become vacant. Only the grace-and-favour residents, all elderly, remain there.

Robin Evans, the agency's director at Hampton Court, said:

"The worst thing you can do with a historic building is to leave it empty, when it will begin to deteriorate quickly. Almost all the historic parts likely to be of interest to visitors are now open to the public but we are still left with hundreds of unused rooms."

Any plan to turn part of Britain's biggest palace into housing would have to be approached with care, Mr Evans acknowledged: there would have to be a suitable mix of holiday flats and permanent accommodation and it was vital that any scheme did not affect the historic atmosphere of the palace as a whole. Potential

tenants would be screened for suitability.

Ten years after the disastrous fire that destroyed the Wren apartments built for William III, Hampton Court hardly knows itself. The Wren wing has been meticulously and magnificently restored and its original contents and furnishings recovered from obscure corners of the royal estate for the first time in centuries. Queen Caroline's apartments have been opened; William III's huge Privy Garden has been reconstructed and the Tudor kitchens are on public view.

The last is the least surprising as David Beeton, chief executive

of the Historic Royal Palaces Agency — which also runs the Tower of London, Kensington Palace state apartments, the Whitehall Banqueting House and Kew Palace — is a direct descendant of the doyen of Victorian cookery writers.

Mr Beeton's unashamedly commercial approach is not universally admired or emulated in the heritage business; there are, for example, no period-costumed guides or historic tableaux on the Buckingham Palace tour. He remains unrepentant.

"Since we took over from the civil servants, who at best were intelligent amateurs, we have

increased the turnover of the historic palaces from £15 million to £40 million, and reduced their cost to the taxpayer by two thirds. We have to make money from other activities, like catering, functions, events — and now perhaps even property."

The 5,000 visitors to the King's Apartments yesterday could view videos of the Easter Monday fire of 1986 and an exhibition explaining how the £11 million restoration was completed. Tourists are encouraged to take a second look at the seemingly immaculate throne canopy, where they can see splatters of molten lead that dripped there from roofing.

Heart attack blamed for collapse

Man dies trying to save daughter from attackers

By JOANNA BAILE

A MAN aged 60 who collapsed as he tried to rescue his teenage daughter from a roadside brawl died from a heart attack, police said yesterday.

Heleen Burge, 17, paid tribute to her father John, who came to the aid of her and a friend when they were attacked outside a pub near their home in Oxford.

Mr Burge, who had a heart bypass operation six years ago, ran to the pub and appealed to the young men and women to stop kicking and punching his daughter. He then collapsed and his last words before lapsing into unconsciousness were for his daughter: "You shouldn't have been out so late."

Police called to the disturbance, just before midnight on Easter Day, tried to revive Mr Burge but he died soon after arriving at John Radcliffe Hospital, where he worked as a laboratory technician.

Miss Burge sobbed yesterday as she spoke of her father.

who was also a night porter at St Peter's College, Oxford. "He saved me," she said. "If he had not been there they would have killed me." She had stitches in her lips after the attack and also suffered severe bruising to her head and body.

Miss Burge described the incident: "My friend Joanna and I were out for a walk. We had eaten too much chocolate and we were just going round the block. We were coming back and we heard a knock on the pub window, then two girls came out and said, 'What are you two looking at?', but we hadn't been looking at them."

"We tried to walk away but they pounced on us and dragged my friend to the ground, kicked her in the head and pulled her hair. They hit me and kicked me and kept trying to push me to the ground."

"First of all it was just the two girls, but then a gang of blokes started on us. A cyclist

came past and tried to stop them punching me in the face."

Her friend, Joanna Taylor, 18, escaped and ran to Miss Burge's home for help. "She told my dad what was happening. I heard him shouting at them to get off but they continued to punch and kick me. Then he collapsed. He was a lovely man and we can't believe he has gone."

Mr Burge had suffered from a heart condition but made a good recovery after bypass surgery and was said by his family to be "fit and well". His Hungarian-born wife, Terezia, was yesterday comforting Heleen and her sister Sarah, 14.

Thames Valley Police are not treating the death as murder. A post-mortem examination found that Mr Burge died of a heart attack brought on by stress.

Superintendent Cressida Dick said: "Mr Burge appeared to have received no assault injuries that would have contributed to his death. But she added: "He died, directly or indirectly, as a result of this incident. Clearly that has to be treated as a suspicious death. We will be sending a report to the Crown Prosecution Service."

Police are trying to trace about 20 people who are thought to have witnessed the brawl. Nigel Rich, landlord of the Fox and Hounds in Abingdon Road, Oxford, said: "There was a gang in here who left at about 11.45pm. They had done nothing wrong and they all left quite happily."

Detective Inspector David McCorkell said: "We are hoping to arrest someone shortly."



Lee Evans in action: "When I miss a chance of ticking a bird I have not seen before, it is soul-destroying"

Bird man drives 90,000 miles a year in search of rarities

By MICHAEL HORNBY
COUNTRYSIDE
CORRESPONDENT

WHILE others went on holiday over the Easter weekend, Lee Evans continued doing what he does almost every other day of the year: tirelessly crossing the country in pursuit of unusual birds.

The 34-year-old former panel designer at Vauxhall Motors is recognised by common consent as Britain's most dedicated "twit", a man so obsessed with spotting avian rarities that even fellow addicts think him a bit over the top. "When other twits say you are bonkers, you know you really are," he says. "Birding has destroyed any hope of normal social or family life. My marriage went down the pan."

Most days Mr Evans is on

the road in his Vauxhall Cavalier soon after 7am, armed with a lunch box and expensive German-made binoculars and telescopes. From his home at Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, chosen for its proximity to the M25, he reckons to cover up to 90,000 miles a year.

In 1987 he was clocked by a police helicopter doing 142mph near Aviemore in a race to keep a dawn rendezvous with a rare flock of capercaillie. Initially banned from driving for ten years, he persuaded the authorities to reduce the penalty to 18 months.

He calls himself a "birder" rather than a "twit", a term he reserves for weekend amateurs. The purpose of his existence is to add new birds to his "life list", the total number of different species he

has seen in the British Isles. "There are 225 different birds which breed in Britain or are regular winter or summer visitors," he says. "About 350 other species turn up from time to time. Some have been seen only a handful of times in the past 200 years."

Mr Evans runs the UK 400 Club, whose 950 members are the crème de la crème of the bird-spotting world. Within this elite is a select group of 455 who have "ticked" 400 or more different species. Mr Evans is tenth, with a score of 488, a remarkable tally given his relative youth. The leader, Ron Johns, who started birding in the 1950s, has 503.

"At this level it becomes harder and harder to find new birds," Mr Evans says. "I add to my list about once every 18 months. When I miss a chance of ticking a bird I have

not seen before, it is soul-destroying. I go into a suicidal depression for several days."

Failing to see a bird is known as a "dip". One week last month Mr Evans had a disastrous run of them. He missed a Pacific golden plover in Weymouth, a ring-necked duck in Sussex, a Bonaparte's gull in Plymouth, a Bonaparte's gull in Penzance, a pine bunting in Sheffield, an American woodcock in Lincoln and a black-throated thrush in Norfolk.

He makes a living by writing books on ornithology and publishing a bi-monthly magazine, *Rare Birds*, for which members of the UK 400 Club pay £15 a year. His greatest wish is to see a common night hawk. "The last three times it appeared I missed it. It was a nightmare."

PR chief resigns after row at Law Society

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ANOTHER senior official is to leave the Law Society, less than a year into the leadership of Martin Mears, the president elected on a reformist ticket.

The resignation of Sue Stapley, head of the society's public relations since 1989, was announced last Tuesday, just weeks after that of her immediate boss, Andrew Lockley, who had been with the society for 14 years. Her departure came after a well-publicised disagreement with Mr Mears. The society's staff of 700 say that they find it difficult under the new regime ushered in by Mr Mears and his deputy, Robert Sayer, last summer.

Ms Stapley will be the third senior staff member to leave this year. John Hayes, the society's chief executive, leaves next month after serving the society for 16 years. Mr Mears has not concealed his view that he would rather Mr Stapley were to leave.

Henry Hodge, a Law Society council member who opposed Mr Mears's election, said: "Their relationship has been extremely fraught. She gave Mr Mears a lot of help in the early days and the relationship apparently broke down. Sue has been a very able PR for the society and will be greatly missed by a lot of people."

Ms Stapley, 49, who is taking up a directorship with the communications consultancy Fishburn Hedges on June 17, was publicly criticised by Mr Mears at a recent meeting of the Law Society council. He questioned her motives for circulating a Sunday newspaper expose of his private life with the other press cuttings she sent out about the Law Society as part of her job.

The dispute was further fanned when Mr Lockley gave the press a copy of Ms Stapley's response to Mr Mears's allegations. The issue blew up into a full-scale council debate in the private half of proceedings that day and Mr Mears himself came under fire for his criticisms of Ms Stapley.

In her post as head of public relations she was responsible for various initiatives, including the society's Make a Will Week, National Law Week and the Save Legal Aid campaigns. John Hayes, the outgoing chief executive, said: "Sue Stapley's energy and wisdom have been of immense benefit to the society and the profession. Her infectious enthusiasm has changed the Law Society for the good. All of us wish her the very best for the future."

Ms Stapley said that she had "enjoyed her time at the Law Society immensely" but that it was now time to move on. She hoped to add to the strengths of Fishburn Hedges in campaigning, public affairs and public relations for a variety of clients, from big companies to law and accountancy firms and voluntary-sector bodies.

Law, page 29

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Cervical screening test needs further refinement

By JEREMY LAURANCE

THE NHS cervical screening programme is saving up to 4,000 women from cancer every year but fails to detect it in more than 2,000, according to a study.

An analysis of women screened in 1992 shows that the programme prevented 43 per cent of potential cases of cervical cancer. However, it was also found that one in five cases of early-stage pre-cancer was missed by the test.

The report, published in the *British Journal of Cancer* today, says that, despite adequate screening, some women will still develop cervical cancer. Scientists believe that additions to the screening test will be necessary to prevent these cancers.

Researchers from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund compared the screening histories of 348 women with invasive cancer with 677 healthy women in 24 health authorities. Based on the results, they estimated that the

scheme prevented between 1,100 and 3,900 cases of invasive cervical cancer in this country in 1992. Dr Peter Sasieni, research scientist at the organisation's maths, statistics and epidemiology department, said the number of cancers prevented would have increased since 1992. "The basic screening programme is working well and mortality is falling more rapidly than ever before. We estimate that if it hadn't been for screening, the amount of

cervical cancer in 1992 would have been 75 per cent higher."

There are more than 3,500 new cases of cervical cancer each year in women under the age of 70 and the findings suggest that, with extended coverage and tighter follow-up, the current screening programme could prevent a further 1,250 of these.

However, Dr Sasieni said there was a limit to the sensitivity of the test. "With the present approach we cannot say to women that they will not get cervical cancer if they attend for screening regularly. As much as 20 per cent of high-grade lesions may be missed by the test. It is not perfect."

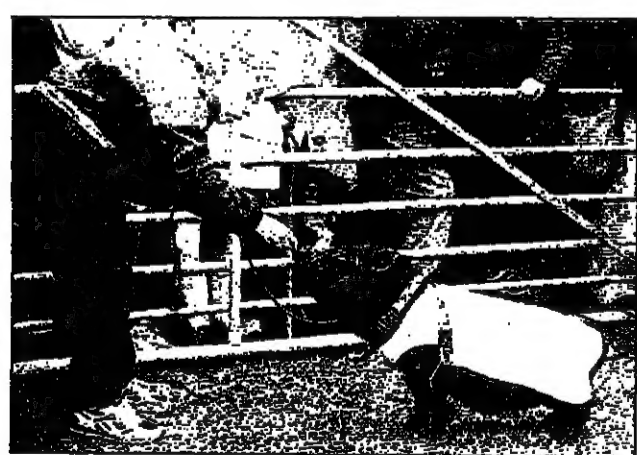
To improve detection rates, Dr Sasieni said that cells collected during screening could be tested for human papilloma virus, the organism that causes genital warts which is also linked with cervical cancer. A test for the virus is being developed but it needs refinement to avoid too many women being recalled for further investigation.

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Showtime over, Roger accepts the crowd's plaudits

Pigs provide music at Abigail's party

BRITAIN'S first beauty show for domestic pigs was won by Abigail, a three-year-old sow owned by Sheila Franklin, who keeps 16 pet pigs at her cattery in Capenhurst, Cheshire. Thirty beasts competed for the honour at Liverpool University's Leahurst Veterinary School in Neston.

Among the attractions at the show were Charlie and Roger, a pair of Vietnamese

pot-bellied pigs from Shildon, Co Durham, who won the novelty section after blowing bugles, racing through tunnels and sitting on command.

Their owner, Heather Powles, 42, said: "This is the biggest audience they have had and I had no idea if they would freeze, but they've been amazing. They are clean and intelligent and more responsive than a dog to train."

Funerals go with a swing as deceased do it their way

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

POP songs and theme tunes are increasingly supplementing hymns at funerals, often as a last request of the deceased. The trend is well established in churches as well as crematoriums, where one of the top ten tunes is *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*.

Other family favourites range from Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You* to the theme from the Australian soap opera *Home and Away*.

Many clergy feel mourners are

helped if the music has a special personal meaning. A survey in one local newspaper showed that almost a third of funeral services now include a pop tune, up from only 2 per cent ten years ago.

Most of the pop songs are included in services for people who die under the age of 50, but the trend is growing at the funerals of older people. A recording of Louis Armstrong's *Wonderful World* was played at the cremation of an 84-year-old woman.

Church organ music is not immune. Ron Bayfield, church organist in Worthing, Sussex, and former

editor of the *Organ Club Journal*, said: "I recently played at a funeral of a lady who had been a cinema pianist in the silent movie days. I played her out with the Charleston. Her relatives said afterwards how much they appreciated it. Another lady requested a waltz, the *Tales of the Vienna Woods*, for her mother. At one funeral, a girl who had been in showbusiness had a recording of Terry Jackson's *Seasons in the Sun*."

Britain's most regular funeral requests include Frank Sinatra's *My Way*, Barbara Streisand's *Memories*, John Lennon's *Imagine*, Bette

Midler's *Wind Beneath My Wings*, and football team anthems, along with more classical sounds such as Mario Lanza's *I'll Walk With You*, the largo from Dvorak's *New World Symphony* — the theme from the Hovis bread commercial — Bach's *Air on a G-String* and Elgar's *Nimrod*.

Paul Stubbs of the Federation of British Crematorium Authorities said: "We have no policy or guidelines on music. It is all down to the individual moral code of the mourners and whether the granting of a request is likely to cause offence."

Canon John Wikeley, team rector of West Derby, Liverpool, said: "Some of the songs requested are lovely. If music is played that has special meaning for the family, that can only be a good thing."

Maureen Barr, who runs Perry Barr Crematorium in Birmingham, said: "The service is the last shot we have of saying goodbye to a loved one and we all have our own individual ways of doing that. I would have to seek advice if the lyrics were particularly explicit."

Leading article, page 15



the

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**FEW PLACES ARE AS *ENJOYABLE*
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Dushyant Patel has been on the Côte d'Azur for seven years; Dorothy Chamaide for 60. The generations rarely meet socially, but when they do friction is almost inevitable. Photographs: Martin Beddall

Arriviste expats threaten to knock old guard for six

DUSHYANT PATEL, accomplished all-rounder with the Cabrice Cricket Club, is one of the many British expatriates on the Côte d'Azur without a bad word to say about his fellow exiles — until pushed ever so slightly.

Practising a few polished pre-season strokes in his back garden beneath the looming mass of the Col de Vence, Mr Patel knocks the old guard beyond the boundary and into the dustbin of history: "They came here to see out the twilight of their years, we younger people came to work and make new lives for ourselves."

Mr Patel, a property developer who left Virginia Water in stockbroker-hell Surrey for the South of France seven years ago, knows he has been cast in the role of "awful newcomer" by the old guard. He does not give a fig. The factions rarely meet socially, but

In the last of a series of reports from the South of France, Bill Frost discovers a growing rift between the Britons who went there to retire and the newcomers who are trying to earn a living

when they do friction is almost inevitable.

"There has even been trouble at the cricket club between the two camps," he says. "The row started last season over my suggestion that we should register the club properly, as French law requires — a modest proposal, I thought."

However, the idea drove some of the older members quite mad with rage, he says. "They refused to pay their subscriptions and some resigned altogether — quite unheard of and a serious distraction from the main business of playing cricket. The problem is

they are little Englanders who came here thinking they could do exactly what they liked and pay no attention to the law or customs of their new country. But at least the row has had the effect of getting rid of the troublemakers," he adds with a wolfish grin.

Strolling back across his patio as darkness falls on the manicured lawn, Mr Patel, 41, observes that the "elderly" Britons on the Côte d'Azur seem to get "awfully charged up" about matters of little importance. He shakes his head more in sadness than in anger when he mentions the latest and

most acrimonious upheaval to divide old and new British money from St Maxime to Menton: the Sunny Bank Anglo-American Hospital in Cannes. The hospital, which is funded by charitable donations, has been ministering to distressed expat gentilefolk in the South of France for a century. However, Mr Patel and others of like mind and similar age suggest that the place is no longer viable as a hospital and should instead be run as a retirement home.

"They cast me in the role of villain because I say we should stop carrying out operations there and save what we can. The Cannes site must be worth five million francs [about £645,000]. I see nothing wrong with the idea whatsoever. Yet passions have been roused between the generations to an astonishing level."

Down on the coast at Cannes, in



a palatial apartment behind La Croisette, the very mention of Mr Patel's name causes Dorothy Chamaide, MBE, to grip her glittering cutlery a little more tightly. One gets the impression that the lavish lunch has been spoiled and the champagne flute has been filled with vinegar. "To turn Sunny Bank into some sort of

retirement home is quite the most odious suggestion that I have ever heard," says Mrs Chamaide, who has been on the Riviera for 60 years. "No, I won't tell you my age — a gentleman would not have asked."

Putting down her knife and fork and leaving her lunch unfinished, she says sadly: "I admit there is less money about and people are less generous. But the hospital must stay. It is a great comfort to those in the community who need free treatment because their savings have dwindled. It is also a great comfort to be surrounded by doctors and nurses who speak English if you are English yourself, elderly and unwell."

Mrs Chamaide, whose walls are decorated with original Picasso sketches and prints — "personal gifts, we knew each other well,

such an exciting man" — is a formidable opponent. "I saw off the Vichy French, Mussolini's army and then the Nazis when they took over down here," she says, with the light of battle shining in her eyes.

"These young ones, these newcomers, don't do anything but criticise the older generation and all we stand for. They haven't got the slightest desire to help, even though they could. They just make insensitive suggestions which cause a lot of anger and anxiety. In fact, they simply couldn't care less."

"Sunny Bank is one fight we intend to win, though. As for those who want to close the hospital or turn it into some sort of expensive rest home, let them hop on a plane and go somewhere far away. They certainly don't belong on the Côte d'Azur."

Viscount team bids farewell to pioneer of postwar skies

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the last three Vickers Viscount airliners in regular passenger service is being prepared for a final nostalgic trip from Heathrow, where the first of its type began commercial service more than 40 years ago.

The Viscount is regarded by many as the greatest British commercial airliner, blazing a trail with its four Rolls-Royce Dart turbo-prop engines and opening European air routes to millions of tourists and business travellers.

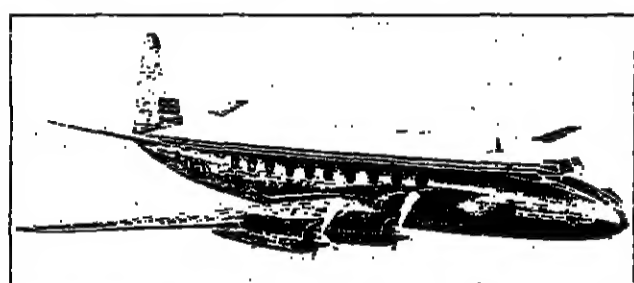
Next week many of those responsible for designing, developing and using the Vis-

count will take a 45-minute flight before the aircraft's seats are removed to turn it into a freighter. The end of a chapter in aviation history will be marked by Sir George Edwards, who led the Vickers design team immediately after the war, Sir Peter Masefield, chief executive of British European Airways who placed the Viscount into commercial service in 1953, Jock Bryce, captain of the first prototype flight on July 16, 1948, and Captain Stan Jones, who commanded the aircraft in the London to New Zealand Air Race in 1953.

Within weeks the two remaining Viscounts, now owned by British World Airlines, will also become cargo carriers.

The Viscount was designed by the same team who designed and built the twin-engine Wellington bomber. The big difference, however, was in the engines. The Viscount used gas-turbine power for the first time in passenger service and established just how reliable the power plant could be at a time when pure jets were running into difficulty.

The Viscount was regarded as a breakthrough in commercial aircraft design, being fast, with big oval windows, a comfortable ride and fully



The fully pressurised Vickers Viscount offered new levels of comfort to millions of holidaymakers

pressurised. But although it was far superior to its competitors it did not enter scheduled airline service until April 18, 1953, with a flight from Heathrow to Cyprus. Flying time from London to Paris was only 70 minutes. The aircraft was sold to 60 airlines around the world and at one time BEA had more than 80.

Twenty-four Viscounts continued to fly for BEA and later British Airways until the early 1980s before being bought by British Air Ferries, operating from Southampton mainly to the Channel Islands. In 1981 BAF won a contract to carry oil industry workers from Aberdeen to Sumburgh in the Shetland Islands, from where they joined helicopters for flights to platforms in the northern North Sea. So far

over 1.5 million passengers have been flown on the route and the company, now known as British World Airlines, has had its contract renewed for another five years. The Viscount, however, is considered a bit too venerable to continue for that long and the airline has instead bought two new 70-seat ATR-72s. Each of the French-built turbo-props cost about £10 million, compared with the £500,000 the Viscount cost in 1957.

The three converted Viscounts will join five others now moving freight, mainly at night, between Belfast, Edinburgh and Coventry. They are expected to serve well into the next century. There are believed to be another 11 Viscounts flying in Zaire, Colombia and Indonesia.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lost Briton was on roof of hospital

A British tourist reported missing from a hospital in Hong Kong never left the premises and was found on the roof three days later.

Stuart Joy, 40, of Swansea, disappeared two days after being admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital with an apparent anxiety attack. A spokeswoman said yesterday. His wallet and passport remained beside his hospital bed and he was reported as missing to police.

Acid shuts M1

The M1 was closed at junction 34 for more than two hours and people were advised to stay indoors after a cloud of nitric acid gas escaped from an industrial plant in the Blackburn Meadows area of Sheffield. Rail services were also halted before the cloud dispersed.

Divine discovery

A lake discovered 500ft under the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, could save the health authority £1 million in water charges. The underground supply, located by a water diver, should be enough to meet the hospital's water needs for 30 years.

Care costs change

Pensioners can now keep £10,000 in savings or assets before they have to contribute to the cost of residential care. Those with savings of between £10,000 and £16,000 pay a contribution. Hitherto, most people with savings or assets of over £8,000 had to meet the entire cost.

Blind targets

Two elderly blind people were robbed as they walked to a friend's home for Easter Sunday lunch. John Butcher, 82, was carrying a white stick and leaning on the arm of his friend Gladys Wainwright when the two young robbers struck in York. Miss Wainwright, 76, lost £100.

Shining example

A policeman who wrote a guide to polishing shoes has been invited to sit on the consulting board of Kiwi, the polish maker. PC James McGowan, 35, of West Yorkshire Police, learnt to buff boots in the Irish Guards. His 32-page guide is to be sold in shoe shops.

Package flight for five survivors

Race to save the snake bitten by tourist boom

By STEPHEN THORPE AND NICK NUTTALL

A FAST-MOVING snake that could not move fast enough to escape imminent extinction has been airlifted from the West Indies to Britain for rescue. A breeding programme for the harmless Antiguan racer could end a run of misfortune partly caused by tourists who made the same flight in the opposite direction.

Boats of island-hopping trippers have inadvertently increased the rat population on the snake's native islands. Rats bite the snake's tail, which houses its reproductive organs. A small group of survivors has been clinging to life at Great Bird Island, which has up to 30,000 picknicking visitors a year, mostly British. Many reptiles there have been killed in the mistaken belief that they were venomous.

Destruction caused by Hurricane Luis in the Leeward Islands last September worsened the snake's habitat. *Alsophis antiguae* has been placed in the highest category of threat under the World Conservation Union's listing: critically endangered. Now two males and three females —



The Antiguan racer: fell foul of island picnickers

shipped in thermal packaging in the climate-controlled hold of a British Airways jumbo jet — are at Jersey Zoo, where it is hoped they will breed for reintroduction on suitable islands.

The rescue scheme has been planned and carried out by Dr Jennifer Daltry and Mark Day of Fauna and Flora International (FFI) with funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

They were invited to conduct an on-site assessment at Great Bird Island in October.

More than half of the estimated population of 50 had been injured by rats. It was this study which placed the species at the top of the endangered list. Too few of the metre-long snakes remained to simply translocate to adjacent islands and captive breeding became the only viable option.

Jersey Zoo, founded by the late Gerald Durrell, specialises in breeding rare species. Quentin Bloxam, the senior reptile curator, described the task as "crisis conservation and a major new initiative". The snakes, he said, had settled in well.

Feeding is always a problem but the technique of "odour manipulation" — in this case, rubbing dead mice with the scent of the snake's natural prey, lizard — is working and hopes are high for summer breeding.

Mark Day returns to Antigua next month to further a research, education and ecological restoration programme. As part of this, boat operators are being warned about the dangers of rat infestation. Juvenile Racers will be released as soon as possible and other islands colonised as part of a wider marine park programme.

Once common butterfly becomes Britain's rarest

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A ONCE common butterfly has been officially designated as Britain's rarest. The high brown fritillary, which has orange wings with black spots, has suffered a 95 per cent decline since the 1950s.

Dr Martin Warren, of Butterfly Conservation, the wildlife group that carried out the first detailed survey, said yesterday that the species was "once so common that Victorian naturalists hardly noted it — it was almost solid in Kent, Surrey, Sussex and up to the Lake District and the Humber."

The new survey shows that the butterfly is now clinging on in 51 colonies, centred on Exmoor and Dartmoor, the Malvern Hills and the Herefordshire commons with some in the limestone hills around Morecambe Bay, Lancashire.



Falling numbers: the high brown fritillary

The survey, carried out on behalf of English Nature, the Government's wildlife adviser, will strengthen calls for more widespread grants to restore the ancient art of coppicing to woodlands.

Dr Warren said the species, *Argynnis adippe*, needed high temperature in the larval stage, during which it feeds on common dog violets or hairy

violets, to survive. Bracken, which is grazed by cattle, offers an ideal habitat. Across most of its former range, the high brown would bask in the sunny glades created by coppicing.

Dr Warren said widespread coppicing would not only benefit the high brown, but a wide range of species including other rare butterflies, the dormouse and insects. "Of the top five threatened butterflies, most are basically woodland species. All have suffered from a change in woodland management," he said.

Dr Warren said there was increasing recognition that coppicing made both economic and environmental sense if given a cash start. Coppiced wood can be used for thatching staves and is superior to plastic substitutes. Fencing and charcoal, B&Q are supporting a scheme to use British-grown charcoal for garden barbecues.



Bryce: commanded first prototype flight in 1948

Pathologist is cleared by inquiry

By JEREMY LAURANCE

A CONSULTANT pathologist who was suspended after doubts were raised about his diagnoses of suspected cancers has been quietly reinstated by his hospital after an

independent inquiry cleared him. Colleagues of Dr Irvin Lampert, a consultant at Ealing Hospital NHS Trust who was suspended in December 1993, have complained to the Royal College of Pathologists that damaging allegations about Dr Lampert that appeared in the press have never been withdrawn. *The Times* carried a report of his suspension on February 23, 1994.

Dr Lampert remained on full pay for more than a year while the hospital set up an inquiry, which met in January 1995 and immediately cleared him. He returned to work in February, and in September the trust wrote to him apologising for the delay in holding the inquiry and con-

fessing that he had been totally exonerated. The finding was circulated to the President of the Royal College of Pathologists and other leading members of the profession but was not communicated to the press.

Julian Nien, chief executive of the trust said: "There was some pressure from colleagues outside the trust that we should write to *The Times*. We felt that would not be appropriate as it would draw attention to his suspension again. We feel we have fulfilled our obligations to the letter and Irvin Lampert has expressed satisfaction with those arrangements."

"I agree it was a long time to organise the inquiry, and we

have acknowledged that and apologised. We have worked very hard to get things back on an even keel."

Keith Lockyer, secretary of the Royal College of Pathologists, said: "Ealing NHS Trust made an enormously convoluted job of this inquiry, but when the report was finalised it completely exonerated Dr Lampert and confirmed that he is an internationally renowned expert in certain rare diseases."

"All talk of incompetence was totally untrue. Unfortunately, the fact that he was exonerated did not get covered. Ealing may have been so embarrassed it did not want to draw attention to it."

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US courts uphold right to assisted suicide

FROM SAN FRANCISCO

Christianity blossoms where Red Guards marched

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN WENZHOU

THE sound of voices singing *Jin Zhao Ji Du Zan Fu Sheng* ("Christ the Lord is Risen Today") echoed yesterday around the winding old streets of Wenzhou, where a religious revival appears to be taking place in a city that saw some of the worst violence of China's Cultural Revolution.

A congregation of hundreds, the majority of them elderly, attended Easter Service at the Xi Cheng Protestant church, founded by a British missionary in 1898. The church reopened in the late 1980s, having been badly damaged by Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution, a period people here recall with revulsion.

But in this city of seven million, there are now about 700,000

practising Christians, said the Rev Wu Sheng Li. His words seem borne out by Wenzhou's taxi drivers, some of whom proselytise for numerous new churches here, even inviting fares to attend services.

"Despite the Red Guards," said Mr Wu, "the spirit of religion was kept alive by believers. Forbidden church services here, they moved to rural areas. When pursued there, they went into the high mountains to worship." Today Communist Party members quietly come to church, locals say.

Now Wenzhou is settling down after the nervousness of last month when China staged war-games designed to influence Taiwanese presidential elections, when locals say they saw hundreds of military vehicles heading south to neighbouring Fujian province opposite the break-away territory. "We don't want war,

Taipei: Liang So-yung, an adviser to President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan, said yesterday that he will visit China next week in a private capacity. Mr Liang, 75, said he would give a speech on the reunification of Taiwan and China at Dongbei University. (AFP)

because we had enough chaos during the Cultural Revolution," said one 68-year-old man attending church service, who repeated the party line: "We hope Lee Teng-hui [the Taiwanese President] will not try to split Taiwan from the motherland, then we can have peace."

Wenzhou, which became a British treaty port in 1877, is a trend-setter. It pioneered small-scale capitalism in the early 1980s while the rest of China was still largely gripped by socialist

planning. During the Cultural Revolution, Red Guard and peasant militias fought it out with guns, and hundreds died.

But nowadays Wenzhou has a burgeoning wealthy class indulging in conspicuous consumerism and busy night streets lit by dazzling neon signs. The rich have posh cars and cellular phones are a must, said Jin Hang Bin, a young businessman.

But there is a vast underclass too, eking out a living by such occupations as moving huge concrete blocks on carts — father pulling, mother pushing, the single child adding his or her weight. "Material civilisation is valued more highly now than spiritual civilisation," said Mr Wu. But while there are extremes of rich and poor, there are chances for upward mobility. State-controlled firms represent less than 10 per cent of Wenzhou's economy, compared

with 45 per cent nationwide, and Wenzhou has thousands of family businesses making shoes, dresses and household goods in the cobbled old area which has not yet succumbed to high-rise fever.

But perhaps the girls of Wenzhou are its most striking feature. Dressed in the height of fashion, including miniskirts, they make Shanghai look old-fashioned. There is even a King's Road, with a series of fashion boutiques patronised by chic young women with money to spend.

"The girls in Wenzhou are smarter than those in Taiwan who these days just wear jeans or any old thing," said Mrs Li Wenhua, 67, a Taiwanese visitor who, unmoved by the recent military exercises, had returned to sweep and tend the graves of family ancestors.

Letters, Page 15

Liberia peace collapses as thousands seek refuge

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

FIGHTING in Liberia between government troops and supporters of a deposed warlord was believed to be spreading yesterday, while tens of thousands of people sought refuge in diplomatic compounds in the capital, Monrovia.

The airport remained closed as the West African country suffered its worst violence in three years. Tens of thousands of people have fled the coastal capital and up to 15,000 were given refuge at the American residential compound in Monrovia. More refugees were fleeing to the Ivory Coast to escape fighting around Zwedru, home town of Samuel Doe, the country's late leader.

In Washington, Mike McCurry, the White House Press Secretary, called the trouble "a direct threat" to peace in the country. "We are very concerned with the unconscionable use of force in Liberia and the fighting in Monrovia," he said.

Kallu Kalumya, of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, whose office is near the American compound in Monrovia, said by telephone: "It is extremely tense and violent. I don't think there is any building which is safe here. There seems to be no law and order."

De Kalumya, who was sheltering on the floor of the UNHCR offices, said: "Today will probably be a decisive day, though it would appear that the police, supported by troops loyal to the Govern-

ment, are in the ascendancy. It is real pandemonium."

Fighting in the country, which was founded by freed American slaves in 1847, erupted on Saturday when government troops tried to force Roosevelt Johnson, the rebel leader, out of his home in the eastern suburb of Sinkor. General Johnson, who was recently dismissed as Minister of Rural Development, is wanted on murder charges after clashes killed several people in the capital last week.

Government troops overran his compound on Sunday, but he escaped and is rumoured to have joined hundreds of supporters who have taken over one of the city's main army barracks. Soldiers of Ecomog, the African peace-keeping army in Liberia, have stayed out of the fighting, to the dismay of civilians.

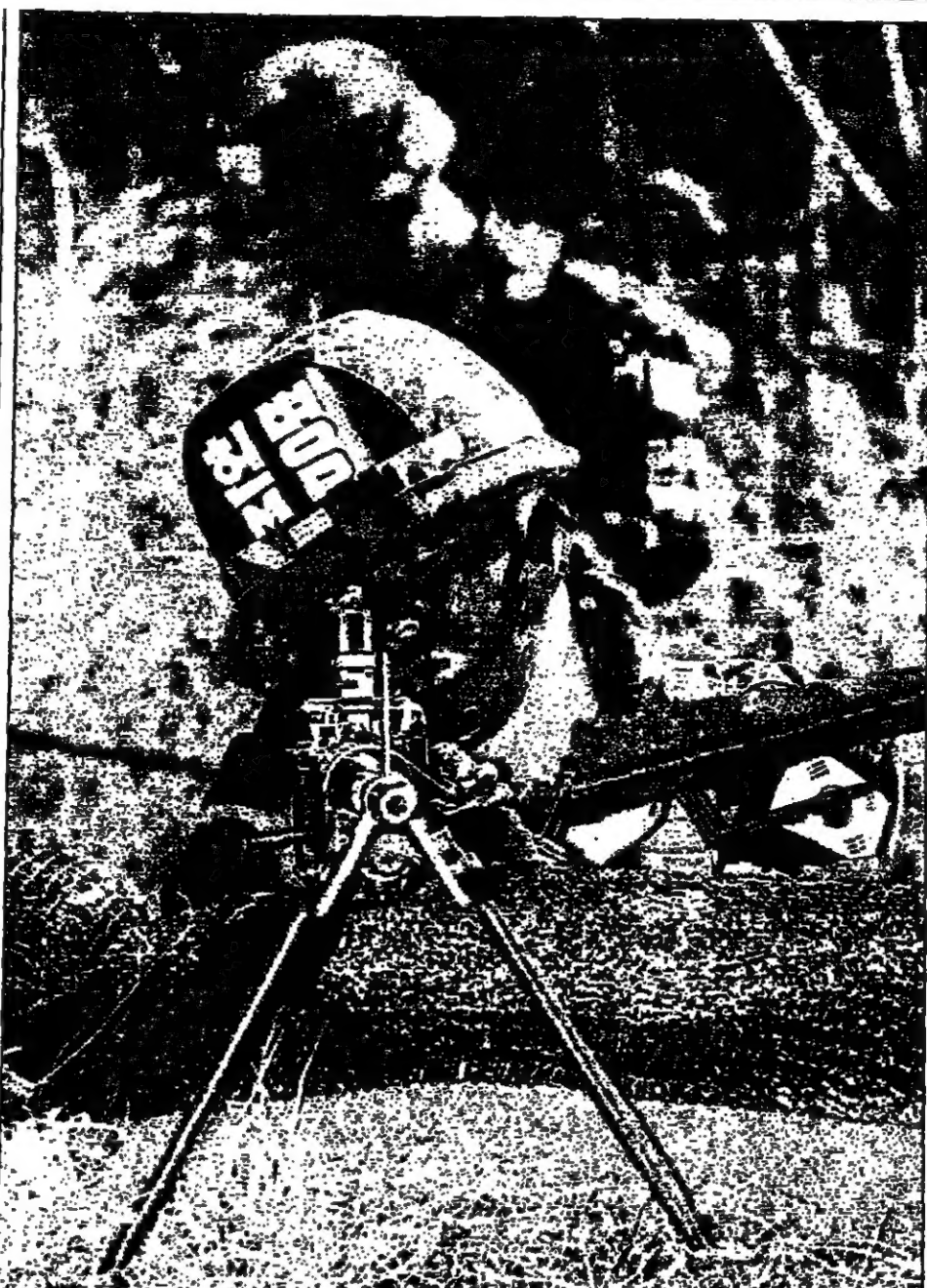
Sydney Sims, a spokesman at the US Embassy, said an American military team from Europe was due in the capital later yesterday to determine whether 470 Americans should be evacuated.

The Egyptian Ambassador and other diplomats were being sheltered at the US Embassy. Some United Nations offices, including those of the World Health Organisation and the UN Observer Mission, have been looted.

It was not known whether any Britons were affected, but the Foreign Office in London repeated long-standing advice not to travel to the country.

A peace accord signed in August 1995 was to have cleared the way for elections this year, but has collapsed like at least a dozen before it. General Johnson joined the Government which took power after the signing of the accord, but was dismissed because of alleged involvement in ceasefire violations.

The war has killed more than 150,000 people and left more than half of the country's 2.3 million people homeless.



A South Korean soldier takes aim into the demilitarised zone where North Korean forces have been sent three times in recent days, raising tension in the border area

Seoul 'to shoot intruders'

FROM REUTERS IN SEOUL

THE South Korean Army will shoot any North Korean troops crossing the border in the demilitarised zone, the domestic Yonhap news agency said yesterday.

North Koreans have in the past been warned first when crossing the border and given a chance to retreat before being shot at. South Korean Navy and Air Force officers were also instructed to deal sternly with any provocation by North Koreans, who have sent troops into the demilitarised zone on three occasions in recent days, the latest being on Sunday, raising tensions in the border area.

The incursions into the sensitive region are a dramatic signal of Pyongyang's intention to completely ignore a truce agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

Yesterday North Korea broke a nearly two-day silence over the tension, again blaming the crisis on Seoul and adding "belligerent quarters of the United States" to its list of trouble-makers.

A commentary in *Rodong Sinmun*, the Communist Party newspaper, said South Korea faced an "irrevocable disaster" if it ignored Pyongyang's warning against making war preparations to invade North Korea.

Analysts in Seoul and Tokyo said North Korea's almost theatrical incursion into Panmunjom at night appeared to be more diplomatic than military and aimed at pressing Washington to agree to military talks with Pyongyang. North Korea has long wanted to wash its hands of the armistice agreement and to sign a peace treaty with Washington.

Minister defends Nkomo's racial outburst

FROM MICHAEL HARTNACK IN HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S Health Minister, Timothy Stamps, yesterday attempted to limit the damage to race relations after an emotional diatribe against whites delivered by Joshua Nkomo, the Vice-President.

Speaking at the graveside of his son Thuthani, 41, the man called "the Father of African nationalism in Rhodesia" blamed whites for Thuthani's death last week from AIDS-related respiratory failure.

In the latest in a series of attacks on Zimbabwe's 70,000 remaining whites, Mr Nkomo said they had deliberately introduced the AIDS virus with the aim of wiping out the 11.2 million black population and taking their land and wealth.

"Unfortunately it backfired because they, too, are dying of it, but still they have knowledge of its origins and how it can be cured, but they just do not want to share that knowledge," Mr Nkomo, 79, said.

Dr Stamps, who emigrated to what was then white-ruled Rhodesia from Wales in 1969 and joined Mr Mugabe's party soon after independence in 1980, yesterday blamed Mr Nkomo's outburst on prominence given by the local media to Wolff Geisler, a visiting German author who claims AIDS is "a plot against dark-skinned people" invented by Western scientists.

The epidemic, now reported to affect more than 10 per cent of the population and to claim at least 300 lives a week, was denied initially by Dr Stamps's predecessor, Herbert Ushewokunze, who died of an AIDS-related illness earlier this year.

Dr Stamps said that Mr Nkomo's complaint of lack of help from whites was partially justified by French and American scientists' failure to notify Africa promptly when the virus was first identified.

□ Fishing ban: The Government yesterday banned all commercial fishing and recreational activities at Lake Chivero, Harare's main water source, where pollution has killed thousands of fish. (AFP)

Peking scorns state of Britain

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

PEKING chose yesterday's Easter holiday as the perfect opportunity to remind the people of Hong Kong how fortunate they were to be rid of themselves of degenerate British rule.

An editorial in the staunchly pro-China *Wen Wei Po* told readers that Britain had the worst human rights record in Europe, that its teenagers work in sweatshops and unemployed families "eat potatoes six days a week and can afford steak only once a week". The attack rounded off a week of propaganda from Hong Kong with a soothing

advertising campaign for co-operation and then peppering some of its "information" channels with vintage invective. The *Ta Kung Pao*, a sister paper to the *Wen Wei Po*, accused Britain of conspiring with Hong Kong's Democratic Party to extend colonial rule.

Last weekend the territory voted with its feet on Peking's latest outburst: 150,000 ethnic Chinese joining a mile-long queue for British passports. This weekend the editorial and a call from China for Hong Kong's children to rediscover "patriotism" and throw off the colonial yoke has sparked further mass dissent.

Wang Fengchao, deputy director of Peking's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, told schools they must remind young people "of their true national identity". But Au Pak-kuo, vice president of the Hong Kong teachers' union, responded: "Letting our kids know only the things the rulers would like them to know is indoctrination — not education."

Many teachers, businessmen and civil servants speak of a desire to leave for Canada or Australia. "Migration is the best protection against Communists," said 23-year-old trader Simon Li.

Envoy charged with child sex

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A SENIOR Australian diplomat who has been charged with sex offences against children overseas, is to appear in a Canberra court this month, police confirmed yesterday.

John Holloway, a former Ambassador to Cambodia, faces charges under the Child Sex Tourism Act, which was introduced in 1994 to protect children outside Australia. The prosecution will be only the second of its kind.

A spokesman for Australia's federal police confirmed that the diplomat had been charged by summons served on his lawyers but refused to

elaborate on the nature or number of charges. Conviction under the new law carries a maximum jail term of 17 years. Mr Holloway, who has strongly denied accusations of paedophilia, is scheduled to appear in court on April 30.

Confirmation of the child sex proceedings against him comes at a time of increasing concern over allegations of widespread paedophilia made during the current Wood royal commission into police corruption in New South Wales. The hearing has been told of a paedophile ring in Sydney in which rich businessmen who took advantage of under-age

youths were protected by corrupt police officers.

□ San Antonio, Texas: A self-proclaimed "child-molesting demon" who threatened to kill his next victims was released from prison yesterday after agreeing to what officials called "unprecedented" parole restrictions.

Larry Don McQuay, who has asked to be castrated in the hope that it would stop his urge to molest, is to live in a halfway house here. Dan Morales, the Texas Attorney-General, said the state may allow him to be castrated after his release if he continues to request it. (AP)

Black photographer cashes in on negative exposure

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

WHEN Baroness Thatcher arrived in Cape Town a few days ago for a low-key Easter break with her son Mark she came face to face with a new growth industry — South Africa's paparazzi.

Driven by the entrepreneurial zest the former British Prime Minister so fervently endorses, the business shows great financial promise. The arrival in Cape Town of Earl Spencer, the brother of the Princess of Wales, and a bevy of international stars, has brought celebrity fever to the country.

The most prominent figure in the growing posse of pictorial fortune-seekers is Fannie Jason, 42, a black

father of two whose guile matches that of more seasoned European and American paparazzi professionals. After years subsisting on the breadline recording township violence, Mr Jason has found chasing Cape Town's rich and famous pays beyond his wildest dreams. Last month alone he pulled in about 30,000 rands (£6,000).

He says his skin colour and patience are the keys to his success. When Earl Spencer's house recently underwent renovation Mr Jason slipped into overalls and entered the premises disguised as a workman.

"Spencer suddenly turned around as I was about to take a

picture of him so I dropped my camera and picked up some bricks," Mr Jason said. "I was worried that he may have spotted me but when I called out 'hello baas' [boss] in a subservient manner he smiled and walked away."

The photographer showed his defiance when Andrew Parker Bowles, ex-husband of Camilla, recently spent his honeymoon in South Africa. He told the hotel receptionist to inform Mr Parker Bowles that his "friend" Fannie Jason was here to speak to him.

"Once he was on line I took the phone from the receptionist and he protested that he did not want any publicity. I started waffling about

how I worked for a black newspaper and that black people in South Africa were very interested in his visit. I heard him call across the room to his wife 'Darling it's the black press, I think we should do this one'."

Within minutes he had them perched on a bench in the hotel garden and hours later their photos were splashed across British and South African newspapers.

"It is the other side of the struggle. The game is the same, it's just the players that have changed," he says. "Compared to the apartheid days playing hide and seek is easy. It pays to be black and I intend to exploit that."



Jason: "The game is the same, but the players have changed"

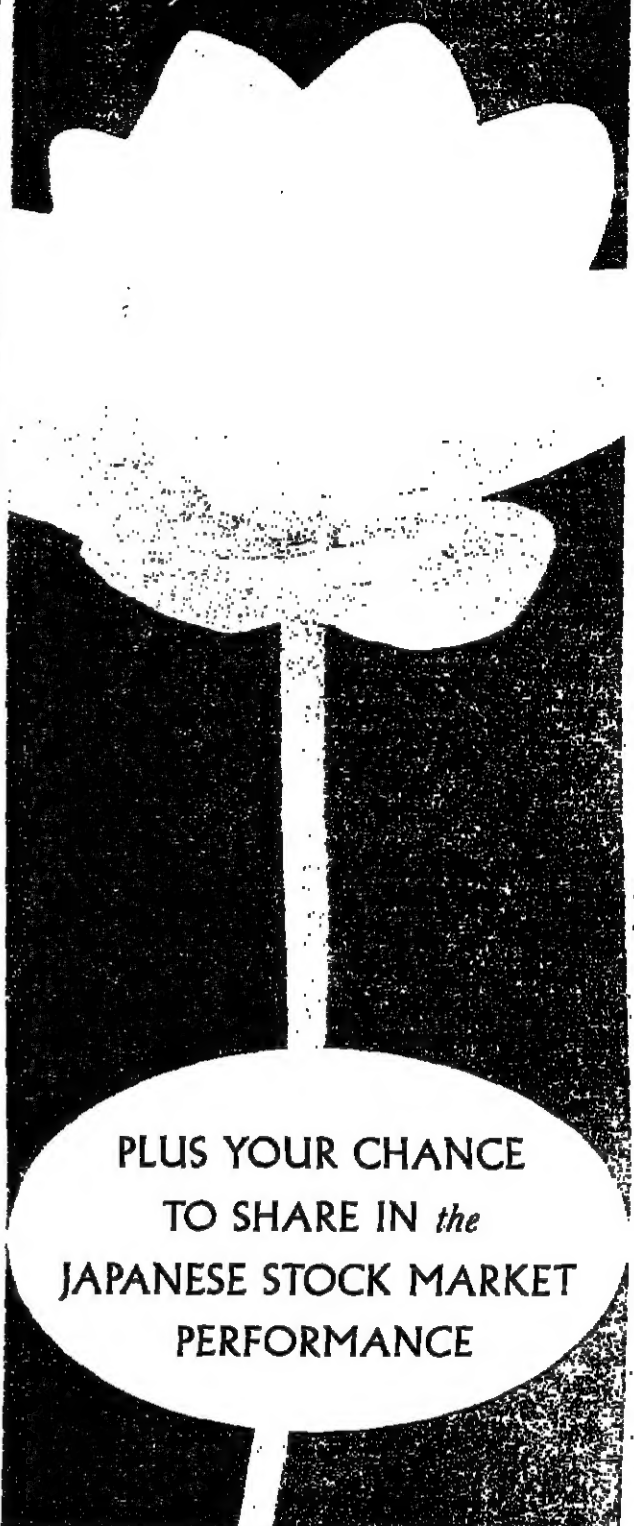
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■ VISUAL ART 1

A new National Portrait Gallery show looks at how Livingstone and the Victorians grappled with Africa

■ VISUAL ART 2

Avis Newman fills the Camden Arts Centre with her paintings, her first British exhibition for five years

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

... while Alison Wilding meditates on mortality in her intriguing stainless steel sculpture, *Echo*

■ VISUAL ART 4

... and an account of what the artist Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster saw as a French visitor to India

GALLERY ROUND-UP

THERE are perhaps too many elements in Ed Lipski's first one-person show, but it is obvious that the overcrowding is intended to wrongfoot any simple understanding of what he is about. A huge daft blackbird, covered in real feathers, hangs low in the gallery on a perch. Models of children have black, beady mounds smeared illogically across their mouths and eyes. A pink pig becomes a rounded, faceless, tail-less object with few features left. It is difficult to know just where the references associated with one object stop and the next lot start, but such work suggests exciting possibilities.

Entwistle 6 Cork Street London W1 (0171-734 6440) until May 4

□ The inaugural exhibition at Robert Prime is an account by Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster of what she saw as a French visitor to India. Through the simple device of mapping out distinct areas in colour painted on to the walls, she manages to orchestrate divisions and boundaries between different spaces in the gallery. Photographs, maps and plans of Chandigarh in the Punjab, designed by Le Corbusier, show the contradiction between untidy reality and planned Modernism. Without attempting a false overview, however, Gonzalez-Foerster also shows transparencies of a face or hand, and details taken from Indian painting fixed on to fluorescent citron-green walls.

Robert Prime, 60/61 Warren Street, London W1 (0171-916 6366) until April 20

□ The sheer range of Graham Gussin's work seems to demand a particular kind of attention. Labour-intensive pencil drawings of aerial overviews are shown alongside finely drawn abstract plans, maps and diagrams. At the back of the larger gallery space, a huge picture of two islands ringed by sand and water presents an unusual "view", hinting at the constructed maps, signs, plans and charts next door and downstairs. This newly opened gallery space has been perhaps overfilled by Gussin in his enthusiasm to nudge the viewer towards limitless possibilities.

Lotta Hammer, 51 Cleveland Street, London W1 (0171-636 2231) until May 10

SACHA CRADDOCK

The Livingstone exhibition is a revealing anatomy of the British way with empires, says Isabel Carlisle

If you expect a soul-searching, politically correct examination of the white man's burden from the National Portrait Gallery's exhibition on Livingstone and Africa, you will be disappointed. This show is about the Victorians and how they grappled with the great continent: determination, self-help and obsessive ambition are the meaty themes.

David Livingstone's background as a child factory worker who achieved his ambition to be a missionary by night-time study, his belief in commerce as an arm of philanthropy, his anti-slavery stance and physical bravery, all locked into Victorian ideals and aspirations. His expeditions constituted all that was best about the British Empire and outflanked the competition in the race for Africa.

That he, in fact, consistently failed to achieve what he set out to do was, in the long run, of minor importance. Livingstone's exploits were extraordinary from any point of view. He arrived in South Africa in 1841 as a missionary but stayed put only long enough to make one convert. (Unfortunately for the London Missionary Society, which had sent Livingstone, this was a slight conquest because Chief Sechele of the Kwenia endured monogamy for only a matter of months. Livingstone was not unsympathetic: he understood the African resistance to Christianity, which attacked the very basis of their way of life.) Instead, leaving the mission behind, Livingstone between 1853 and 1856 set off to traverse sub-Saharan Africa from coast to coast, a distance of about 2,000 miles from Luanda in the west to Quelimane near the mouth of the Zambezi in the east: one of the two or three greatest feats of land exploration in history.

En route, "he encountered Mosioatunya, 'the smoke that thunders', and named it the Victoria Falls. Livingstone came back to England a hero, lionised in society and welcomed into the tight network of science and politics in which Sir Roderick Murchison,

president of the Royal Geographical Society, played a key role. It was Murchison who obtained the support of Parliament for Livingstone's second African expedition: the exploration of the Zambezi.

The Zambezi trip was a disaster. The steamboat that had been transported in bits from England kept running around and had to be abandoned. The enormous drop of 600ft of the Cabora Bassa rapids in any case meant that the river was unnavigable, and plans of opening up southern Africa to industry and commerce via the Zambezi had to be abandoned.

Livingstone quarrelled with all the expedition's members in turn, including his brother. Nor were any converts made, and many of

the missionaries who had been encouraged by Livingstone's unrealistic accounts died of malaria and other diseases.

Acutely conscious of his failure and of the withdrawal of public esteem, Livingstone conceived an ambition to compete with Grant, Burton and Speke in the race to find the source of the Nile. It was on this last, badly planned expedition that Livingstone disappeared and James Gordon Bennett, Editor of the *New York Herald*, sent his reporter Stanley to find him, thus engineering one of the greatest scoops in the history of journalism.

Finding in Livingstone the father figure that he lacked, Stanley ignored the flaws in his character and instead described Livingstone

as "near an angel as the nature of living man will allow". The discovery of a forgotten saint rather than a brave but embittered man undoubtedly also made for better copy. Stanley's account formed the core for the myth that was to be constructed about Livingstone after his death in the swamps of Lake Bangweulu on the same expedition in 1873.

Because Livingstone could not draw, the plates for his first book (a bestseller) were worked up in London from verbal descriptions. On the Zambezi trip the party included an artist called Thomas Baines, whose sketches and paintings are one of the delights of this show.

Baines resisted Livingstone's instructions to make purely ethnographic drawings of the Africans they encountered and painted sympathetic portraits of two of the slaves at the Portuguese colony of Tete. He later went on to produce the first painting of the Victoria Falls, a fascinating meeting of the British landscape tradition with a drama of subtropical vegetation, panic-stricken water buffalo, big-game hunters and the thundering waters of the falls.

Paintings are only a part of the context within which this show tells Livingstone's story. Photographs, letters, travel notes, scientific records, stuffed birds and animals, as well as artefacts brought back from Africa, all evoke the continent

through the sensibilities and preoccupations of the Victorian explorers. Having grown up in a pre-Darwinian generation, these men had no problems in perceiving Africa through a fusion of science, religion and poetry.

Most extraordinary and most poignant perhaps are the hats that Livingstone and Stanley wore at their famous meeting, and a section of the baobab tree under which Livingstone's African bearers buried his heart before carrying his body to the coast. I defy anyone not to engage with this insight into the anatomy of empire.

David Livingstone and the Victorian Encounter with Africa, at the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (0171-360055) until July 7

Exploring the heart of Africa

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY



Herd of Buffalo opposite Garden Island, Victoria Falls (c 1862-65) by Thomas Baines. His paintings and sketches are one of the delights of the Livingstone show

Look closer, and all is revealed

Richard Cork looks beyond the delicate self-effacement and falls for the strength of Avis Newman's paintings and Alison Wilding's sculpture, now on show in London

Some artists thrive on constant visibility, moving from one show to the next with an insatiable thirst for exposure. Others prefer a more reclusive approach. They exhibit sparingly, and never push themselves into headline-hogging manoeuvres. Their work shuns boisterous spectacle, opting instead for subtle, slow-burning strategies which can easily be overlooked by anyone in search of a quick visual fix. But they often turn out to be immensely rewarding, and provide experiences more satisfying than the work of their high-profile contemporaries.

Two of the finest of these deceptively quiet artists, Avis Newman and Alison Wilding, happen to be showing in London at the moment. Their work does not disappoint.

Newman, holding her first exhibition in Britain for five years, fills the Camden Arts Centre with large paintings and small objects that make no attempt to seize the viewer's attention. Seen from a distance, as you enter the grand, handsome gallery where most of them are displayed, the paintings look like monochrome abstractions. Only after closer inspection do these after closer inspection do these white images disclose the marks Newman has left on their surfaces.

She thinks of them as spiders' webs, and they certainly have the fragility of thin, delicate, tracery discovered dangling in a hedge or a

neglected doorway. But if the word "web" implies something intact, than it is misleading. For the faint linear trails in Newman's pictures all seem broken. The "web" has already begun to disintegrate. Its particles hover uncertainly in space, ready to be battered still further by a sudden rush of wind. At their strongest, on a white canvas called *Webs*

'Their work shuns spectacle, opting for subtle, slow-burning strategies'

(*Backlight*) V, displayed in a smaller room, the slender black and grey lines lance through the milkiness of the pigment around them. But even here, they are far from aggressive. They straggle and falter, declaring their hesitancy without pretence.

In most of the paintings, though, Newman's marks are more elusive. They hover on the edge of invisibility, and the edge of particles so break up into particles so small that they resemble a flock of birds wheeling far above the ground. In the white above the ground, they seem about to melt in an all-enveloping haze of radiance. But the black paintings are more alarming, and suggest that the thin lines

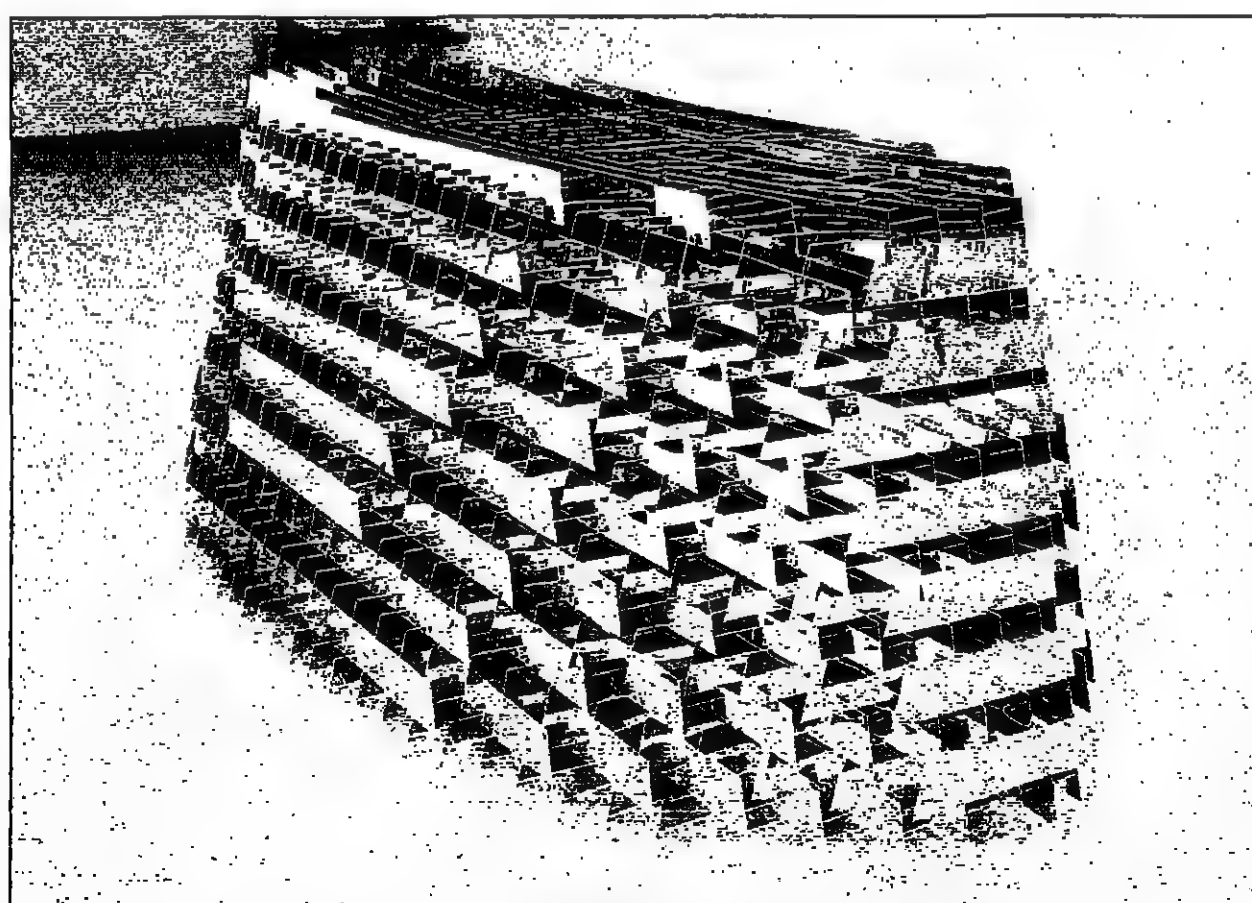
are threatened with obliteration by a voracious darkness. They flicker in the void, ready at an instant to vanish altogether.

These canvases are quite distinct from Newman's work in the 1980s. There, the presence of both humans and animals could be detected in the billowing forms she spread across her picture-surface. However ambiguous they may have been, they insisted on playing a substantial role in the turbulence of the painting as a whole.

Now, by contrast, they linger only as fast-dissolving suggestions of their former existence. Newman now regards them as, at best, spectral memories. In her latest paintings the particles have been completely absorbed in dense fields of subdued colour. Absence here becomes an unavoidable reality. Like so many other artists in the mid-1990s, Newman is preoccupied by transience and loss.

Only in her boxes does she retain a hold over the solidity of objects. Supported by white plinths and encased in Perspex containers, these wood rectangles await examination in the third gallery. Some contain shells, arranged neatly on ledges like prized items in a collection. Others are hard to fathom, like the box opening on one side to reveal a dour, stained surface within.

But these boxes lack the imaginative power Newman commands when she applies brush to canvas. I spent far



"As frustrating as the interior of a Piranesi prison": Alison Wilding's stainless steel and polished brass sculpture, *Echo* (1995)

more time with the paintings, and found myself fascinated by their ability to alter each time they were scrutinised. Nuance is all in these evanescent images. If they are preoccupied with the inevitability of loss, their refinement ensures that melancholy is countered by a beautifully judged lyricism. That is why Newman's exhibition is, in the end, so heartening. It confronts the prospect of extinction with poise, and refuses to let gloom snuff out vitality even when exploring the very heart of darkness.

Alison Wilding, whose exhibition at Karsten Schubert consists of a single sculpture, also meditates on mortality. *Echo*, the title she has chosen for this gently commanding work, reminds us of the nymph who died after yearning

without avail for Narcissus's love. She gradually faded into the encircling forest, and Wilding's horizontal sculpture rests on the floor like a monumental coffin.

Rather than oppressing us with its bulk, however, *Echo* proves as elusive as one of Newman's feathery paintings. Its interlocking stainless steel slats tease the eye with their geometrical complexity. Highly reflective, they are broken up by the light. And, as we explore their glinting, fractured segments, so we realise how bewildering the structure will remain.

Like Narcissus, I found my own face mirrored when I crouched down to peer into the sculpture. But it was a fragmented reflection, and I grew simultaneously aware of my ability to see deep inside the

work. There, the fantastic intricacy of the slats creates labyrinthine spaces as frustrating as the interior of a Piranesi prison.

Gradually, though, I became conscious of a presence lodged inside. Difficult to see from the sides, it is clearer from above. Made of polished brass, this mysterious sphere may refer to Echo's head. But Wilding ensures that it evades any clear-cut identification, even if the sharpness of the slats might well evoke Echo's body as it changed from bones to rock.

Metamorphosis is surely the governing idea at work. The initial impression of a coffin gives way to a more transparent alternative, inviting us to lose ourselves in its maze-like interior. As ever in Wilding's work, tension is

generated by the bringing together of two contrasted elements: the brittle interplay of countless steel units, and the rounded solidity of a single

brass form. Ultimately, though, the sphere proves impossible to pin down: whenever we look at it from a different angle, the brass appears to have changed position. Instead of remaining solitary, it jumps around the sculpture like the voice of Echo herself, who could only speak when repeating someone else's words.

So we are left with a stimulating conundrum. If Wilding's exhibit is indeed concerned with a nymph's death, it can be seen as a sombre memorial. At the same time, however, the restlessness created by its reflections and baffling interstices is at odds with the whole notion of a sarcophagus. The artist herself has written that, when she was working on the model for *Echo*, it exuded "a concentrated stare, of brass at steel and steel at brass. It's an intense, obsessive stare and mirrors mine at it."

Those words help to explain why the entire sculpture seems far too alive to be confined by the negation of the grave. Suspended within its metal prison, the sphere may still be animated by the nymph's unrequited passion.

Alison Wilding at Camden Arts Centre, Ardwright Road, London NW3 (0171-438 3643) until May 5
Alison Wilding at Karsten Schubert, 41/42 Foley Street, London W1 (0171-631 0031) until Saturday, and then at Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, April 25 to May 31

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Sue Wright explains why she finally decided to take the test for Huntington's disease

When my father was first diagnosed as having Huntington's disease (HD) it was a shock to us all, as we did not know that it ran in the family. I was 14 years old when I knew that my two sisters and I had a 50 per cent chance of developing HD.

I am now 39 years old and have lived with that risk for many years. It's a 50 per cent chance of developing HD, the next feeling guilty that you might be worrying about nothing — you might be in the 50 per cent who do not have the HD gene. It was always in the background, becoming worse at certain times of life. It was another complication to consider when forming relationships with boyfriends. Life insurance and endowments have also been a problem.

When I applied for a nursing job in New Zealand I realised that they would not accept me on a long-term basis. In practice, being at risk meant that I was treated in the same way as if I definitely had the gene. (Those who are HIV-positive but who don't have Aids are in a similar predicament.)

Howard and I had known each other for about five years when we decided to go for genetic counselling in January 1993. We were serious about each other but unable to make any decisions regarding marriage or having a family. It was one thing to know that I could develop HD myself, but quite another knowing that any children would be at risk too. We needed to find out about all the options before deciding whether or not to have a family.

When we first started genetic counselling no one was yet able to predict how close they were to cloning the gene. The only other test that was available was an exclusion test. This would compare my genetic material with my mother's. The foetus could then be tested, and if it had my mother's genetic material it was less likely to have my father's.

Although Howard and I had an easy and open relationship, it was often less painful to avoid speaking about important issues. The counselling was on a regular basis and we really appreciated the professional way in which it was carried out. We were able to reveal our worst fears to ourselves and to each other. Did we really want to have a child, and could we cope with having an abortion?

When the HD gene was



Sue Wright with Elizabeth: "At some point we will have to explain to her that her mother has this gene, but we will take life as it comes." Photograph by PETER NICHOLLS

For the love of Elizabeth

cloned in March 1993 we had already had a few sessions with our genetic counsellor. I had been waiting for years for the gene to be identified, and when I found that I could have a genetic test it was a strange feeling. We had to consider seriously whether we were better off living at risk or living knowing I had the gene. There would be no going back. The fact that we wanted a child also put a slightly different angle on the situation. If I knew that I had the gene, then I would know whether I could

pass it on or not. It seemed the most sensible first step. I also felt that if I had the gene and had any regrets later in knowing about it, then at least I would feel that I had done it for the sake of a possible child. We decided to go ahead with the test. Howard and I planned to get married before-hand — we knew we wanted to make a commitment to each other. However, it meant at least two counselling sessions with three months between them. Before the test we both felt that if I did have the gene

we would not have a child. Part of me was afraid of knowing that I might have the gene, but then I also felt fed up with being at risk. It was also difficult not to think of the possibility of being clear. We tried not to raise our hopes. When we were given the date of our test result, we booked a holiday so that neither of us had to be at work after the result was known. I took care in deciding which friends I could tell, as not all would understand. This choice became more impor-

tant as we approached the test because we knew that we needed the support of friends, but also that we needed privacy and space — particularly if we had to come to terms with a positive result. Therefore, we decided to confide in just two couples with whom we were close and whose views we respected. Our families were too close to talk to immediately. When we had the result that I had the gene it was still a shock. We had feelings which were similar to a bereavement: first, we knew I would get HD, and secondly, what at the time seemed inevitable — the loss of not having a child. However, we had been well prepared. We both felt more at peace now we knew I had the gene. I'm sure fear can build up around something that might or might not happen and sometimes it's better to know the truth.

Neither of us regretted the decision at all. We continued with the counselling and were surprised that we still wanted

to have a child. Initially, I felt guilty about this. I felt that because I have the gene I should not have a child as well. Perhaps I saw Howard looking after me and a needy child, or perhaps I just felt it wouldn't be fair to the child knowing that I could be ill for many years. However, we had always wanted a child and, in the end, after a lot of agonising, I chose to get pregnant. We had also decided that we would have the baby tested. It is the same test that I had, but done on the

11-week-old foetus, and similarly proves conclusively whether the baby has inherited the gene. It was a big decision and we had a lot of counselling and support. We knew there was a 50 per cent chance of any child of ours having the gene, and it was a particularly traumatic decision to get pregnant because we had both decided that if the baby had the gene then I would have the pregnancy terminated. The fact that we both reached this decision helped to ease the

burden, and our friends were very supportive too. I found out that I was five weeks pregnant in February last year. I felt pretty neutral about it because, in a way, I was gearing myself up for a termination — there was no point in getting excited, only for it all to end.

Those six weeks leading up to the test were very hard. I hadn't told my family about the fact that I had inherited the gene, and so chose not to tell them about the pregnancy, either. Howard and I both felt that it wouldn't have been worth telling them without the happy news that the baby was clear. It was very stressful, the sort of time you can't really describe in words.

The test on the baby was performed at Guy's Hospital. It is like an amniocentesis, on a sample of cells. It is strange that a test that will reveal something so momentous only takes such a short while. We waited just under a week for the result, just praying for the right news. When we found out, the relief was enormous, we were so happy. The baby was completely clear.

I decided that the moment was then right to tell my family both about my own test and the baby. It was a very emotional time, as there was great sadness for me mixed with great joy for the baby. My family were not taken aback in the sense that they always knew we were all at risk from the gene, but so far they have chosen not to take the test.

In September last year I gave birth to a beautiful 7lb 13oz baby girl, Elizabeth. It is a source of great joy for us both. At some point we will have to explain to her that her mother has got this gene, but we will take it as it comes and pray for advancements in medical science. The way I see it, people get ill anyway and there is no point in upsetting her unnecessarily.

We won't have another child, as the risk is not reduced and I don't feel I want to go through it again. We have been blessed with Elizabeth, and we want to enjoy her. The main thing is knowing that she's not at risk. We keep our minds open about the rest.

● Sue Wright tells her story in *The Troubled Helix*, social and psychological implications of the new human genetics, edited by Theresa Marsden and Martin Richards (Cambridge University Press).

● Huntington's Disease Association, 108 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3HP (0171-223 7000).

HOW HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE IS INHERITED

HUNTINGTON'S disease is a degenerative condition of the central nervous system that generally develops in middle age. Sufferers gradually deteriorate to a point where they require total care before they die. The disease is inherited and affects about one in 5,000 people in Britain and America. If your father or mother has the gene you have a 50 per cent chance of

inheriting it. If you do, you will definitely develop Huntington's, although its severity varies widely; you may also pass it to your children. If you do not inherit it, you will not develop the disease or pass it to your children. Since 1993 a genetic test has been available but most people who know that Huntington's runs in the family have not taken advantage of it.

When exercise is bad for you

If you are not fit, don't overdo it, says Dr Thomas Stuttaford

WATCHED by more than seven million television viewers Adam Frost, the stroke of the Oxford boat, clutched his chest as he crossed the finishing line at Chiswick Bridge after four miles and 374 yards of gruelling rowing.

As Mr Frost is only 21 and in peak condition, he can be assured that the race is unlikely to have done him harm: any chest discomfort is likely to stem from simple breathlessness coupled with disappointment. If he were unfit, or older, the gesture might have had a more sinister connotation.

Research workers funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) recently investigated the effect of exercise on fibrinogen levels. Fibrinogen is one of the clotting factors in the blood and it is thought to be implicated in coronary heart disease: too much circulating fibrinogen can be a portent of cardiac trouble.

A team of research workers, doctors and scientists, from University College Hospital, London, has studied the effects of exercise on army recruits. The team, led by Professor Steven Humphries, took regular blood samples from 150 entrants and plotted the effect of what was for many of them unaccustomed physical exercise. The study provided further proof that regular exercise, whether around the parade ground or across country, was good for the heart. In the first ten weeks of training the average fibrinogen levels dropped significantly, by 11.9 per cent. The lower fibrinogen levels

found in well-drilled soldiers provide a wonderful argument for the brisk walk to the office each morning, but the rest of the research casts considerable doubt about the benefits of violent exercise, whether it is, for instance, rowing in the university Boat Race or running the London Marathon.

The BHF found that fibrinogen levels responded quite differently when exercise was carried to the point of exhaustion, as in the Boat Race or when the recruits were studying were driven to the limits of their physical endurance. In these stressful circumstances blood fibrinogen levels leapt up, but Professor Humphries was content that as the recruits were young, healthy and by now physically fit, their

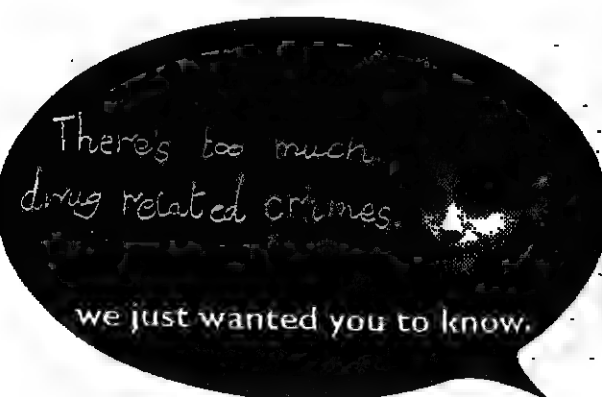
hearts were not in danger. Professor Humphries's research also found that 20 per cent of the population inherit a gene which gives them higher levels of fibrinogen when leading a normal life, and an increased liability to suffer a particularly marked rise in the level after exhausting exercise.

Professor Brian Pentecost, the medical director of the BHF, said: "This research confirms that regular exercise, enough to make you slightly breathless, is ideal when taken for 30 minutes

five days a week, but that it should not be so violent as to leave you exhausted." Earlier research has shown that illness, cold weather and unaccustomed exhausting exercise, particularly for those who are normally sedentary, increase blood fibrinogen levels, and appear to be part of the cause of heart attacks and strokes. The change, for instance, in the fibrinogen levels after a chilling 20 minutes in the cold can be enough to cause a reaction.

and is one of the factors which help to fill the obituary columns after a cold snap. Finding that there is a variant in the fibrinogen gene which occurs in a fifth of the population and which is associated with increased fibrinogen levels brings doctors closer to being able to predict which of their patients have a high risk of suffering coronary heart disease.

Once identified, these people can be treated and given advice as to the activities they should pursue. This advice would include not taking part in marathon running, and it might even discourage exchanging life at a City desk, with little daily exercise, for the rigours of the ski slopes.



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The socialist queen of Herts?

Barbara Follett's political ambitions have produced resentment in the Tory marginal, Stevenage. Julia Llewellyn Smith canvassed opinion in both the old and new towns

It is a pretty white workman's cottage, with a tiled roof and red door. The tiny front lawn is immaculately kept and in the patch of garden at the back the primroses are in bloom. But few people would want to swap a £2 million mansion in Chelsea or a villa in the South of France for this three-up, two-down in the heart of Stevenage's old town.

Yet this is the house that Barbara Follett, 53, wife of the bestselling novelist and millionaire Ken, bought for £110,000 when she learnt she had won the Labour candidacy for this marginal seat. Already she spends Thursday to Sunday here, and if she wins the seat from the Tory Tim Wood she says she will move there full-time.

A former "image maker" to the Labour Party, Mrs Follett spent years brushing flecks of dandruff off lapels, straightening collars and ensuring that no party member wore odd socks. If ever a place needed a Follett makeover it is Stevenage, a new town 25 miles north of London, built to overcome the chronic housing shortage in the capital after the war. Its population rose from 6,200 to 76,000 but the boom was brief. Now unemployment stands at 8 per cent.

No wonder, then, that in the mock-Tudor houses of the Conservative old town and the postwar housing estates of the Labour new town, Mrs Follett's campaign is viewed with a deep-rooted cynicism.

Already Mrs Follett has enraged the locals by painting her front door red to match her trademark jackets, in a preservation area where all other doors are white. She then made matters worse when she applied for planning permission to expand the garden to include a public footpath and some bushes, which she planned to enclose with a brick wall.

"It was a very insensitive act," says an elderly neighbour, who declined to be named. "It offended the residents of the old town, who hate flashy newcomers, and it offended all the unemployed

people who saw them arriving and immediately trying to take over public land to expand their property."

The Folletts, realising they were causing resentment, soon backed down, but the incident confirmed many people's suspicions about the couple who are the embodiment of the phrase "champagne socialism".

the kit of the top-scoring striker at Stevenage Borough Football Club, make regular appearances at local schools, and have donated dozens of signed copies of Follett first editions to charity auctions.

Mrs Follett explains that she was attracted to Stevenage because it was the first new town to be built by Labour after the war. "You still feel that 1945 vision is there," she says. "They still give the kids free milk in the schools every day. Community still matters to them. It's a bit like an expatriate community; these are East Enders who have been bombed out of London and dumped in Hertfordshire. I was born in Jamaica and grew up in South Africa and have spent my life moving around, often in expatriate situations, so I can relate to that."

Stevenage is taking a little while to become used to her, however. "I'm not surprised the old town doesn't like her," says Marie Huber, a pensioner who does voluntary work at the Garden House hospice shop in the old town's High Street. "I have been here 33 years and after a long time after I arrived, there were shopkeepers who would make a point of serving the old towners before the new towners."

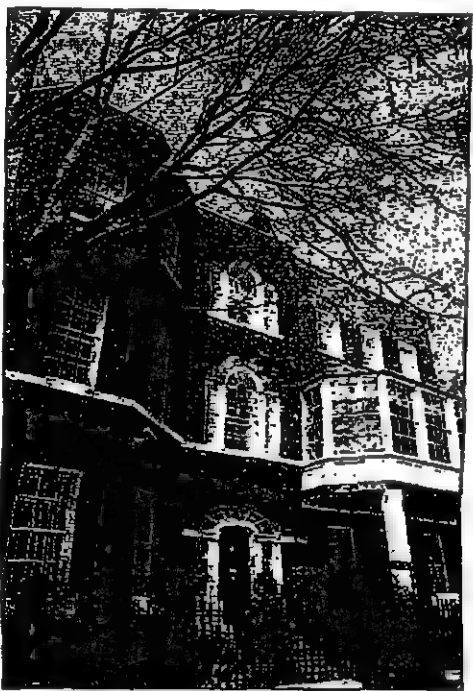
"I think she has been put here to try and get on," says fellow volunteer Eve Blake, 69. "I don't like being used as the backdoor way in. I would vote Labour in the local elections because I'm quite satisfied with the council, but I definitely wouldn't vote for her."

"I can't understand someone with all that money coming in as a Labour candidate. I'm sure people like her don't understand those they are standing for. In the old Labour days they did come up the hard way. With modern Labour I don't know."

Chris Parker, librarian at the old-town library (where several Follett bookshelves line the returns shelves), says: "Stevenage is very split; this end is very conservative. She is making an effort but I don't think she could do anything right if she tried."



The candidate's constituency cottage...



...and her other house in Chelsea

This is Mrs Follett's third attempt to win a seat, after two unsuccessful attempts in 1983 and 1987 on Tory strongholds in Surrey. This time she has embarked on an intensive campaign to demolish Mr Wood's majority of 4,388, which would disappear with a 3 per cent swing, easily achievable according to the latest opinion polls.

The Folletts have sponsored



Millionaire Labour candidate Barbara Follett enraged the locals by painting her door red to match her jackets, and trying to expand her garden

"She joined this library with a great flashing of cameras, it was a bit over-the-top really."

At the Two Diamonds pub, across the road from the Folletts, Hugh Beeton, 56, unemployed, is having a lunchtime pint. "I will vote Labour anyway, because I want to get the Tories out. But I'm not happy about that money coming in as a Labour candidate. What does she know about the people in Stevenage and their problems? Why does she need another house? She should have given it to the homeless."

His friend, George Filer, 60, a gardener and member of the local Labour Party, says: "The fact that she is rich is not doing her much cop. Personally, I wish she was more left-wing. But she's quite attractive for 50-odd and she will make a good constituency MP, even if it's not for the right reasons." Others, however, feel that Barbie and Ken have be-

stowed on Stevenage a well-earned spate. "Barbara will add a touch of glamour," declares Jackie Mansfield, at the florist's opposite. "Goodness knows, Stevenage could do with a touch of Chelsea."

"She's a very pleasant woman. I think she will do well, people are impressed by her. She's not pushy. On Mother's Day she came in to the shop and said 'I'm sorry to

bother you, but would you mind making up some orders for me?' Then she sent flowers to quite a few people. I think she's very thoughtful."

Penny Samuels, waiting for her three children outside Barclay Comprehensive, says: "I don't mind if she comes from London, most of us do anyway. I don't even know what she looks like, but I'd vote Labour anyway, because

I'm sick of the Tories." "I like the sound of her," says Stuart Barnett, 26, landlord of the Yorkshire Grey pub, Mr Follett's local. "She hasn't been in politics too long so she's not tainted yet, she's a woman so she probably thinks more about other people than we do. So what, if she is a millionaire? Good for her for having made something of her life."

"But I will reserve judgment on her until she comes into this pub. The vast majority of our punters would not vote at all. They're all young people and they're too laddish. They earn £100 a week and they spend £95 on Friday and Saturday nights. If she came through this door and talked to a few kids she could get so many votes."

Tunku Varadarajan runs out of puff in the quest for tobacco Lament of a pipesmoker

BRITAIN'S pipesmokers are a serene fraternity. They puff up their private clouds of smoke, carve ceaselessly at the crust inside their pipes, light more matches a day than the very worst arsonists and sip their soothing whiskeys onto palates scarred by the constant burn of tobacco.

But this fumerious pleasure — so self-possessed, so calm, so introspective — is now threatened by the violence of today's market practices. It is as if there were a conspiracy against the brotherhood of the briar: seven out of every ten London newsgroups do not stock or sell pipe tobacco any more. I know this well, because these figures are the result of my own one-man-and-his-pipe survey.

Other pipesmokers have confirmed the cheerless findings of my four months of depressing research. A recently retired colleague — known for his well-chewed pipe, dwindling hair and temper short as a stub in an ashtray — fumed to me that his neighbourhood newsgroup no longer kept anything but cigarettes on the tobacco shelves behind the till.

A sage, bearded colleague at *The Times*, who is an unflappable lunchtime companion of mine, talks wistfully of the days when flake and ready-rubbed were as common as red telephone boxes. An old Jamaican puffer, by whose rumpied side I sit from time to time at *The Three Horseshoes*, frequently mourns the decline of the Mother Country — by which he means, of course, the disap-



Few shops now stock pipe tobacco

pearance from our streets and shops of good tobacco.

What is going on? Is there a dark plot to turn us all into smokers of cigarettes? Why have the normally diligent and solicitous Mr Patels of Britain's Big Cities — who take such care to ensure that their shops have every fix-flavour of sweet drink, every gob-nut of chocolate, every brand of cigarette — stopped stocking pipe tobacco?

There is demand for it, why, at this

very moment, as you read this short lament, hundreds of restless men are wandering from shop to shop, with pipesmoking fingers crossed, in search of their packets of St Bruno, their tins of Balkan Sobranie, their Clan.

Yesterday I walked for a mile in Islington, north London, down Upper Street, the Essex Road, a side street here and there — in search of Erismore, the tobacco I have loved since my father first blew some in my face when I was a teenager. It is sold in vacuum-packed orange tins, lined with ruffled paper (as good tobacco should be), which one prises open with the twist of a slim coin, but in Islington it is sold not at all.

"HAVE YOU any Erismore?" I asked one overworked newsgroup, then a second and a third. Each looked at me with puzzlement, as if I had asked for a daughter's hand in marriage. "No, sorry, don't do that. Don't do pipe tobacco. Try the next shop down the road. I think they have some, but I can't be sure." But the next shop never has any. The search is a futile one.

This is the time, then, for a virile campaign. Pipesmokers, you must unite and fight. Lobby your newsgroup. Tell him what you want. Gesticulate energetically at him. Write to the country's pipe-tobacco suppliers, blow up a nubbus of ready-rubbed indignation. And if someone — anyone — dares tell you that your demands are dated, look him squarely in the eye and say: "Put that in your pipe and smoke it!"

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Elizabeth Noel says religion and party politics do not mix

Angel

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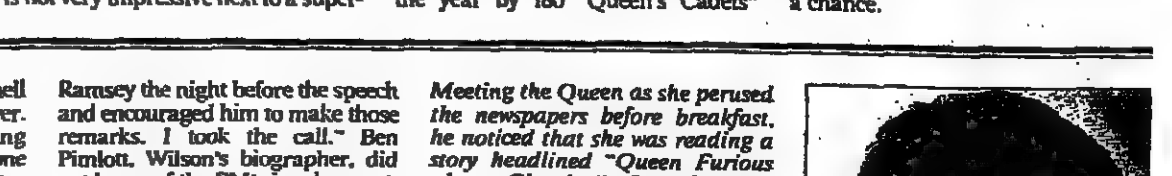
Labour's education policy has been so badly ripped apart that nobody can now tell what it is. It was alarming that Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, had a nasty reception at the National Union of Teachers' conference for her sane policies on grammar schools

Dr Mawhinney's team should display them in large newspaper advertisements and on the hoardings emphasising that these successful policies were opposed by Labour. There need be no election before next spring. Despite grumbles, David Trimble's Unionists will not risk losing Mr Major who, has so brilliantly put Sinn Féin and the IRA on the spot. There is just enough time for Dr Mawhinney to convert a potential disaster into a triumph.

self, he flew into the crowd. "All broke loose," said an observer. "Panti went bananas, shouted 'control is all' and then every-

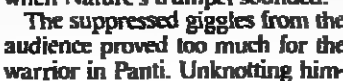
self, he flew into the crowd. "All broke loose," said an observer. "Panti went bananas, shouted 'control is all' and then every-

How the new Day



Early days: Maggie and Robert

● *Camilla Parker Bowles is said to be spending Easter in Portugal as*

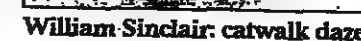


Canon John Andrew, a former chaplain to Ramsey, told his congregation on Good Friday at St. Thomas's church on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue that the speech was made at Wilson's bidding. "Now he is dead I can say this," he said, seemingly moved to anger. "Harold Wilson telephoned Michael

"The more you look at it, the more it looks like 'Tony'"

William Sinclair, 24, grandson of Sir Archibald Sinclair, Air Minister during the Second World War, and cousin of Lord Thurso, was being snapped up to model for Versace. A scout for the American photographer Bruce Weber spotted Sinclair while staying at Il Cadogan Gardens, the elegant Chelsea hotel where he is a reneger.

Though one of the finest players of the Wall Game in his generation at Eton, Sinclair was sceptical initially. He was won over when promised that he would be working with top supermodels, not least Kate Moss. "I thought I might as



well give in at that point," he says. Sinclair's modelling career, however, has already got off to one start. Last year he was asked to star in a campaign for Hugo Boss by a mink-clad Ethiopian woman in a Sloane Square bar. Sadly, the offer came to nothing.



COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 8: The Prince of Wales today visited Fife and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine).
His Royal Highness this morning visited the Forth Bridge, North Queensferry, and was briefed on the current programme of repairs.
The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, afterwards visited the Foyer Project in the old West Bridge Mill, Bridge Street, Kirkcaldy, and saw an exhibition of the work of the Trust

with young people in Fife.
His Royal Highness, President, Scottish Business in the Community, this afternoon visited the Trust Community Centre, Abbeyview Estate, Dunfermline, and met members of the local community and business leaders who are setting up a programme of practical support for the estate.
The Prince of Wales later visited Culross and toured the Abbey Church and National Trust for Scotland properties, including the Study and Culross Palace.

Today's royal engagements

Prince Edward, as Patron of Haddo Arts Trust, will attend the first night of the Haddo House Choral and Operatic Society's 50th anniversary production of *Othello* at Haddo House Hall, Aberdeenshire, at 7.00.

Lord Cooke of Thorndon

The life barony conferred upon the Right Hon Sir Robin Brunsell Cooke, KBE, has been gazetted by the name and title of Baron Cooke of Thorndon, of Wellington in New Zealand and of Cambridge in the County of Cambridgeshire.

Olivier's gift to Leigh for auction

A painting Laurence Olivier gave to his wife Vivien Leigh as a love token two years after they married in 1940 is expected to sell for about £20,000 at Sotheby's in London on May 16.
Vivien Leigh was then at the height of her fame after winning an Oscar as Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With the Wind*. Olivier bought the picture, *A Farewell to Myo* by Jack Butler Yeats, in a selling exhibition at the National Gallery.

Church of Scotland

Retirements
The Rev Jack Mitchell from Mendehill, Dundee.
The Rev William Shackleton from Welling Park, Greenock.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, illegitimate son of King Charles II, Rotterdam, 1649; Isambard Kingdom Brunel, engineer, Portsmouth, 1806; Charles Baudelaire, poet, Paris, 1821; Léon Blum, Prime Minister of France 1936-37 and 1938, Paris, 1872; Paul Robeson, singer and actor, Princeton, New Jersey, 1898; Hugh Gaitskill, leader of the Labour Party 1955-63, London, 1906; Sir Robert Helpmann, ballet dancer and choreographer, Mount Gambier, South Australia, 1909.

DEATHS: King Edward IV, reigned 1461-70 and 1471-83, London, 1483; Lorenzo de Medici (The Magnificent), Careggi, Italy, 1492; François Rabelais, writer and physician, Paris, 1553; Francis Bacon, Viscount St Albans, Lord Chancellor 1618-21, London, 1626; Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Pre-Raphaelite poet and painter, Birchington-on-Sea, Kent, 1882; Mrs Patrick Campbell, actress, Pau, France, 1940; Dr C.E.M. Joad, civil servant, author and controversialist, Hampstead, 1953; Frank Lloyd Wright, architect, Phoenix, Arizona, 1959.

General Robert E. Lee capitulated to General Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, 1865.
The Hudson Bay Company ceded its territory to Canada, 1896.
Germany invaded Denmark and Norway, 1940.

Today's birthdays

Mr Severiano Ballesteros, golfer, 39; Lord Justice Simon Brown, 59; Mr Eric Clarke, MP, 63; Sir Brian Cubbon, civil servant, 68; Lord Deramore, 85; Mr Iain Duncan Smith, MP, 42; the Most Rev Domenico Enrie, former Apostolic Nuncio, 87; Mr Robson Fisher, former Headmaster, Bryanston School, 75; Lord Fitt, 70; Viscount Gage, 62; Miss Hannah Gordon, actress, 55.
Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, Lord-Lieutenant of East Lothian, 70; Mr Roger Harrison, chairman, Toybee Hall, 63; Sir Graham Hills, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Strathclyde University, 70; Mr Eric Illsley, MP, 41; Mr Tom Jackson, trade unionist, 71; the Hon Bernard Jenkin, MP, 57; Mr Neil Jenkins, MP, 57; Mr Alan Knott, cricketer, 50; Mr Tom Lehrer, lecturer and songwriter, 68; Mr Martin Margiela, fashion

designer, 42; Mr Peter Moore, former chairman, Littlewoods Organisation, 64; Mr Vincent O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 79; Sir Michael Ogden, QC, 70; Sir Michael Palliser, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 74; Mr Carl Perkins, rock singer and guitarist, 64; Sir Michael Richardson, former chairman, Smith New Court, 71; Professor K.G. Robbins, senior Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, 56; Mr Martin Rogers, former Chief Master, King Edward's School, Birmingham, 65; Miss Valerie Singleton, broadcaster, 59; Mr Michael Somare, CH, first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, 60; Professor D.H. Walker, QC, 76; Mr B.H. Weston, former chairman, Manweb, 66; Mr Frank Yardley, racehorse trainer, 53; Miss Frieda Young, diplomat, 83; Sir Richard Young, industrialist, 82.



Patricia Restall of High Pitfold, Hindhead, Surrey, driving out in fine style through Battersea Park yesterday

On parade in the park

BIG crowds watched as the London Harness Horse Parade yesterday celebrated its return to Battersea Park with a perfect day. The parade, an amalgamation of the London Cart Horse Parade and the London Van Horse Parade, came back last year to Battersea where the first cart horse parade was held on Whit Monday, 1885. The van horse parade started in 1904 and had a record number of exhibits—1,259—in 1914. For many years both parades were held in Regent's Park. After the Second World War entries declined and the parades amalgamated in 1966. Horses, ponies, owners and drivers turned out in good numbers yesterday.



Rowena McDermott takes the reins of Dolly and Violet, two percherons, pulling a Shand Mason steam fire engine built for Lord Shaftesbury in 1908

Scottish Episcopal Church

Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney
Eleanor Morison has been ordained deacon at St Olaf's, Kirkwall. She takes up a non-salaried post as Assistant Deacon at St Olaf's.

Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness
Heather Susan Widdows has been ordained deacon at St Maclrubha's, Poolewe. She is appointed Honorary Assistant Deacon at St Maclrubha's.

Diocese of St Andrew, Dunblair and Dunblair
John Malcolm Richardson, Canon of St Ninian's Cathedral and previously Rector of St Mary's Newport-on-Tay, is now Rector of St John's, Forfar.

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway
Alexander Montgomery has been ordained priest in St Andrew's, Dundee. Mr Montgomery is now Honorary Assistant Curate

Church news

Appointments

Canon Trevor McCabe, Vicar, Manacora w St Anthony-in-Meneage and St Martin-in-Meneage (Truro): to be Archdeacon of Cornwall, same diocese.
The Very Rev Robert Jeffery, Dean of Worcester, is to be Canon Residentiary and Sub-Dean of the Cathedral Church of Christ Church, Oxford, succeeding the Right Rev Ronald Gordon, who resigns in September 1996.
The Very Rev Trevor Beeson, formerly Dean of Winchester: to be Dean Emeritus.
The Rev Malcolm Bowers, Vicar, St Blazey: to be also Rural Dean of St Austell (Truro).
The Rev Simon Burton-Jones, Curate, St Peter, Darwen w Huddlesden (Blackburn): to be Curate, Biggin Hill (Rochester).
The Rev George Fleming, Vicar, St Barabas, Holmer w St Mary Magdalene, Huntingdon (Hertford): to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Worfield, same diocese.
The Rev Paul Foster, Curate, New Cleve (Lincoln): to be Priest-in-charge, Aldington w Buntingford and Bilsington (Cambridgeshire).
The Rev Jacqueline Fox, Senior Further Education Officer for the diocese of London: to be Rector, St Mary's, Acton, same diocese.
Canon Peter Goodridge, Director of Education for the diocese of Truro: to be also Residentiary Canon Librarian at the Cathedral of St Mary, Truro.
Reverendary Tim Gouldstone, Director of Lay Training and Priest-in-charge, Lamorran and Merther w St Michael, Penkivel (Truro): to be also Rural Dean of Powder.
The Rev Victor Howlett, Hon Curate, St Matthew w St Nathaniel, Kingsdown, and St Michael and All Angels, Bathurst: to be Curate of that benefice and the parish of

Greater Corsham (Bristol).
The Rev Peter Law, Vicar, Chichester, Christ Church (Winchester): to be Vicar, Luton, St Hugh, Lewsey (St Albans).
The Rev Stephen Mather, Team Vicar, St Nicholas, Sutton: to be Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Abam, and St James and Elizabeth, Bickershaw (Liverpool).
The Rev Brian McQuillen, Vicar, Gloucester, St George (Gloucester): to be Vicar, St Martin w East and West Loe (Truro).
The Rev Kevin O'Donnell, permission to officiate, diocese of Oxford: to be Chaplain at Heathfield School, Ascot, same diocese.
The Rev Richard Peckham, Vicar, Ilfrcombe Team Ministry: to be Vicar, Sid Valley Team Ministry (Exeter).
The Rev Colin Pope, Vicar, St Luke, Orrell: to be Vicar, Emmanuel, Southampton (Liverpool).
The Rev David Pritchard, Vicar, Marcham w Garford and Rural Dean of Abingdon: to be Rector, St Mary's, Henley on Thames (Oxford).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Harold Coddington-Clarke, Vicar, St John, Blindley Heath (Southwark): to retire October 23.
The Rev Thomas Collier-White, Priest-in-charge, Charlton w St James (London): to resign August 11.
The Rev Norman Davies, Vicar, St Mark w St Margaret, Plumstead (Southwark): to retire May 1.
Canon Jeremy Harrold, Vicar, and an Honorary Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to retire October 1.
The Rev Frank Potter, Priest-in-charge, Badwell Ash (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to retire September 30.

University news

Research

New research grants and contracts accepted by the members of the departments named include the following:
Dr A Basu (Economics), £86,590 from the Economic and Social Research Council—South Asian entrepreneurship in Britain: determinants and dynamics.
Professor G M Meeson (Computer Science), £16,317 from the EPSRC—systemic and regular array composition environment (Sarcom).
Professor M J Baines (Mathematics), £14,260 from the EPSRC—multi-dimensional upwinding and grid adaptation for conservation laws at the ICED.
Dr B L Evans (Physics), £73,444 from the EPSRC—a regular array of nanometre sized magnetic particles and its role in thin film magnetic electronic devices.
Professor N Fisher (Construction Management & Engineering), £19,112 from the EPSRC—a clients' project definition tool.
Dr J P Wann (Psychology), £245,230 from the EPSRC—level of detail in interactive 3D environments to enable effective database traversal.
Professor K A Browning and Professor A J Thorpe (Meteorology), £108,257 from the NERC—deep tropopause folding and its relationship to severe weather.
Dr P J Valdes (Meteorology), £105,025 from the NERC—modeling climatic change during the last glacial/interglacial cycle.
From other bodies:
Professor F P McKenna (Psychology), £147,127 from the Automobile Association—men and women car drivers—role in key accident factors.
Dr D C Mason (Environmental System Science Centre—Geography), £94,994 from the British National Space Centre—inter-lateral elevation models using satellite data.
Ms N Garnett (Construction Management & Engineering), £16,115 from the Department of the Environment—cost of ownership through integrated logistic support for construction.

Professor G N Fisher (Construction Management & Engineering), £126,082 from the Department of the Environment—Link (IDA): a clients' project definition tool.
Mr C G Guy and Dr J R Miles (Engineering) with the Teaching Company Centre, £80,120 from the Department of Trade and Industry's Teaching Company Scheme.
Dr R Davies and Mr J G Brennan (Food Science and Technology) with the Teaching Company Centre, £132,460 from the Department of Trade and Industry's Teaching Company Scheme.
Professor A Swinbank (Agricultural Economics and Management), £86,080 from the European Commission—quality policy and consumer behaviour.
Professor M Coleman (Postgraduate Research Institute for Sedimentology), £17,200 from the European Commission—quantitative risk assessment of carbonic acid in HP/HT hostile hydrocarbon reservoirs for best practice production management.
Dr S A Booth (Economics), £138,334 from the European Commission Tempus (Taxis)—creation of model centre for agricultural enterprise and revisions of economics courses.
Dr J M Ames (Food Science and Technology), £71,252 from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food—Link agro-food quality: cooked potato aroma and texture.
Professor C J Garforth (Agricultural Extension and Rural Development), £85,000 from Natural Resources Institute—support to the Institute of Natural Resources for Institutional Development (Republic of South Africa).
Professor J D H Keatinge (Agriculture), £229,190 from the Overseas Development Administration—Hillside systems programme—adaptability of cover crops.
Professor P G Whitehead (Geography), £73,500 from Thames Water Utilities Ltd—environmental impact studies on the River Kennet.
Dr J Bignell (English), £135,167 from the British Academy—BBC Wednesday Play—research fellowship.

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THE LORD, for he is good:
and his mercy is over all his works.
Psalm 135: 5.

BIRTHS

BAKTER—On March 22nd, to Alison (née Green) and Jonathan, a daughter, Emily Charlotte Louise.

BUKTON—To Julie (née Pearson) and David, at the Broom Maternity Hospital, on 30th March 1996, a daughter, Martha Grace, a sister for Jessica.

CLAUDE—Martha and Francis (née Layton), give thanks to God for the birth of their daughter Verity Sophie Layton, a sister for Declan on 26th March 1996.

CLARE/BOWEN—On 4th April 1996, to Sally and Steve, a daughter, Ella Sarah, a sister for Ella.

HARRIS—On March 14th 1996, at The Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion, Edinburgh, to Christina (née Brooke) and Richard, a son, Samuel James.

MISS STEWART—On Good Friday, to Caroline (née Tick) and Charles, a daughter, Ella Charlotte.

WADSWORTH—On 1st April, to Victoria (née Lightfoot) and Scott, a son, Dominic Edward James, a brother for Samuel.

DEATHS

ABEL-SMITH—Brian, Professor at London School of Economics, after a short illness, on 4th April 1996. Dear brother of Lionel and beloved by all his many friends and colleagues. Cremation at Chiswick Crematorium, near Uxbridge, on Friday 12th April at 3.15 pm. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon Ltd, 0171 734-4624. Memorial service at 11.15 am, London to be announced later.

BUTLER—Edward Charles (1919-1996), died peacefully at home, on 4th April 1996, after a short illness. He was 76. He was the husband of Dorothy, now deceased, and the father of Philip, Nick, and Leo.

CHALICE—One of the longest lived in the world, Mary, aged 97 years and 11 months, died peacefully at home, on 4th April 1996. She was the wife of David and mother of James, John, and Michael. She was a member of the Parish Church, St Mary's, on Friday 12th April at 2 pm. Flowers will continue to 11th & 12th. Water Street, Wals. Tel: 01747 660 363.

CHRISTIE—On Saturday 6th April 1996, at the age of 95, Lucie Catherine, daughter of the late T.P. LeFanu and the late J.T. Christie, sometime Head Master of Rye and Westminster and Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, mother of Catherine, Portia, and John. Burial at Holy Trinity Church, Molesey, on Thursday, on 11th April at 11.30 am.

DAVISON—Peacefully in his 89th year, on 4th April 1996, at 2.30 pm, after a long illness. Enquiries to H. Darke (01747) 461135.

DEAN—Peacefully in his 89th year, on 4th April 1996, at 2.30 pm, after a long illness. Enquiries to H. Darke (01747) 461135.

MURDO KERR—John, 89 years old, died peacefully at home, on 4th April 1996, after a short illness. He was the husband of Mary, now deceased, and the father of John, David, and Michael. He was a member of the Parish Church, St Mary's, on Friday 12th April at 2 pm. Flowers will continue to 11th & 12th. Water Street, Wals. Tel: 01747 660 363.

ESSLEMONT—On March 29th, after a long illness, died peacefully at home, on 29th March 1996, after a short illness. He was 76. He was the husband of Dorothy, now deceased, and the father of Philip, Nick, and Leo.

GODDARD-JACKSON—Frank, peacefully at home on 4th April 1996. Funeral service and interment at St Mary's Church, Duddingston, on Friday 12th April at 2.30 pm.

MONTAGUE DOUGLAS SCOTT—On 4th April, Rachel widow of Lord William Montagu Douglas Scott and daughter of 13th Earl of Howe. Sudden and peacefully at home. Funeral service at 12.30 on Wednesday, 10th April at Holy Trinity Church, Molesey, on Thursday, on 11th April at 11.30 am.

MORRIS—On 5th April peacefully at home, Michael Frederick Morris aged 63 years. Beloved husband of Sue and loving father of Nicola and David. Burial at St Mary's Church, Duddingston, on Friday 12th April at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only.

VAUGHAN—Mary, on 2nd April, daughter of the late Mrs Hilda Vaughan of Chichester. Burial at St Mary's Church, Duddingston, on Friday 12th April at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only.

IN MEMORIAM—PRIVATE
Perfect—Christopher T. died 8th April 1994 aged 47. Forever loved and thought of by his wife, son and mother.

BURBURY—Gordon Noel (1919-1996), died peacefully at home, on 29th March 1996, after a short illness. He was 76. He was the husband of Dorothy, now deceased, and the father of Philip, Nick, and Leo.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the Royal Society will be held at the Royal Society, 1, Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2BQ, on Wednesday 11th April 1996 at 10.30 am. The meeting will be held in the Great Hall of the Royal Society. The meeting will be held in the Great Hall of the Royal Society. The meeting will be held in the Great Hall of the Royal Society.

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TUESDAY APRIL 9 1996

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Leeds exposed
by power play
of St Helens



LAW 29

Help is on the
way for the
victims of noise



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Chocolates to make
Belgians eat
their hearts out

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THE TIMES

TUESDAY APRIL 9 1996

Career-threatening accident to Busst overshadows Manchester United's victory

Injury dispels Bank Holiday spirit

Manchester United..... 1
Coventry City..... 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

INEVITABLY, Eric Cantona won it and, inexorably, Manchester United moved on towards their second FA Cup double in three years... but the whole relish of an Easter Monday game before 50,332 spectators, the biggest league crowd for nine years, had ebbed away after a horrifying injury after only 80 seconds which resulted in a compound fracture of the right leg for the Coventry City defender, David Busst. Three hours of surgery were needed last night, and it was still uncertain if the injury may have ended one of the unsung careers in the professional game.

It was one of those collisions that deeply affects even the hardest of professional careerists. Peter Schmeichel, United's Danish goalkeeper, who



The sickening moment when Busst, the Coventry City central defender, suffered a broken right leg in a challenge with Irwin, left, the Manchester United defender. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Photograph
Rangers push for safety 20
Liverpool recover 21

once before had seen bone protruding through the flesh, simply said at the end of the contest: "I cannot talk; if they asked me a question about that accident, I would break down." And indeed the very joy and purpose of the match was deadened from the instant that Busst, stretching forward in hope of the fifth goal of his lifetime, collided with the similarly outstretched leg of Denis Irwin.

It had followed what turned out to be Coventry's most enlightening moment. From a corner on the right, by Fickling, Whelan had glanced the ball with his head. Schmeichel had used the fullness of 6ft 4in frame to dive to his right and palm it down, and then, when Busst and Dublin went for it, when the goalkeeper pounced on it, came the hateful collision. It left the leg at a grotesque angle and so much blood on the pitch that it was nine minutes before the goal area could be swabbed clean and the game restarted.

Even in the stands, hearts pounded, but the eyes did not want to see. Busst, who came late to Coventry on a free

transfer from the Birmingham non-league club, Moor Green, has never had the opportunity to earn a fortune at his game. He has played fewer than 50 games at senior level and, at 28, is one year younger than the unbroken tenure Coventry have enjoyed in the top division in English football: a tenure which, alas, like the player's livelihood, is threatened this morning.

Yet, as Alex Ferguson, the United manager, was to observe, it was Whelan who first picked up the threads of the game. It was Whelan who burst through United's offside trap and Schmeichel who,

with a hint of reluctance, had to throw himself down near the same spot, just in front of his right-hand post, to smother Whelan's chance.

Slowly, gradually, the main man of the afternoon, Cantona, began to shape what was left of the game. At the outset the tricolours had outnumbered anything else against the slate-grey sky, and the Frenchman, lying deep to orchestrate United's rhythm because the surging presence of Keane was missing through suspension, did indeed become the catalyst of the show. But it remained tentative, and one reason why was that Cole

has become more goal-maker than goalscorer since his £7 million transfer.

Two instances of this came before half-time. First, he spun away from Williams and, with wonderful vision, found Giggs, who attempted to flick the ball clear with his heel. It spun up, Cole and Richardson raced for it, the ball ricocheted off Richardson, and there, seven yards out and seemingly in seven yards of space, was Cantona, scoring almost with nonchalance.

After Ferguson had cleared his throat from the "hateful" injury to an opposing player, he said: "Thank God, the

chance fell to Ooh-ah. He panicked, didn't he? But I thought Eric was magnificent at times today."

Indeed he was, a player of so much technique and vision that he could stroll the field; and when Cantona stopped, for the final 20 minutes, United ebbed so badly that their manager conceded they could have thrown away the precious points. Instead of filling their boots with goals that may become crucial at the season's end, they had settled for a solitary gift, and in the final minute Richardson, trying desperately to give his club a lifeline, found himself eight

yards from goal, the home defence statuesque. But he was off balance, he mis-hit his shot wide, and the import of it all is that Coventry may this time be going down, and United will be going all the way to the final championship shoot-out.

However, all of it became secondary to that deeply sick-

ening feeling in the stomach that follows such an injury to a man who had done nothing to deserve such a fate.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P. Schmeichel - D. Irwin, D. Sory, G. Hevrie, L. Sharpe - D. Beckham, N. Butt, S. McClair, R. Giggs - E. Cantona - A. Cole
COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S. Ogrizovic - A. Pickering, D. Busst (sub: W. Boland, 20m), L. Daulton, J. Salako - P. Toller (sub: E. Jones, 70), A. Richardson, P. Williams, P. Ndlovu - D. Dublin, N. Whelan.
Referee: D. Gillingham

Higgins blackballed with prized position in reach

By PHIL YATES

NIGEL BOND did Stephen Hendry, his Team Sweater Shop stable-mate, an enormous favour by capturing his first world ranking event, after seven years, as a snooker professional, by beating John Higgins 9-8 on the last black in a memorable British Open final at Plymouth yesterday.

Higgins was set to overhaul Hendry at the head of the provisional standings going into the Embassy world championship later this month when he established a commanding 69-0 lead in the deciding frame with only five reds, and therefore 67 points, available for Bond.

Higgins then dropped his guard. Instead of screwing back off a simple black for a choice of three easy reds, he chose to ignore obvious positional considerations.

He missed a tough red to a middle pocket and Bond eventually potted four reds, with four blacks, and laid a fiendish snooker behind the blue. Higgins could not escape. Bond cleared to pink and, after getting the better of a tense tactical battle, potted it and clipped a courageous black across the top cushion.

"It was a pot you wouldn't go for under normal circumstances, but those weren't normal circumstances," Bond, who collected a first prize of £60,000, said. "When John was so far in front, I was

resigned to defeat, but I was thrown a lifeline."

Higgins had found himself trailing 3-0 as Bond, responsible for the elimination of Hendry and Peter Ebdon, started the stronger. When Higgins left a free ball in the first frame, Bond cleared the colours to draw first blood. Breaks of 61 and 35 gave him the second and he edged the third on the black by a single point.

Having misused on a reasonably straightforward blue to a middle pocket in that frame, which would have left Bond requiring snookers, Higgins exhibited his unshakable self-confidence by snatching the next for a vital foothold. Trailing 53-1, Higgins rolled in a risky long red

to launch a 56 clearance to pink, before he added a tricky black after a short safety exchange.

That seemed to have instigated a perceptible shift in the balance of power, for Higgins put together a run of 47 in the fifth, before jawing a red with the rest. Bond clinically fashioned a 79 clearance to lead 4-1, only for Higgins to claim the closing two frames of the session.

Higgins also accounted for the eighth with a 91 break, but Bond again showed his resilience, producing an emphatic response in the form of a run of 89 to regain the advantage at 5-4.

Even the 44 clearance to black from Higgins, initiated by a fluked red, that helped him to level at 6-6, failed to shatter Bond's resolve. After the next two frames had been shared, Bond defied the growing tension to construct a 122 clearance to lead 8-7. Higgins replied with contributions of 49 and 75 in the sixteenth frame before seeing virtually certain victory prised away.

Not since Jimmy White beat Cliff Thorburn 13-12 in the 1986 Mercantile Classic has a player prevailed in the deciding frame of a final after requiring a snooker.

Bond: first ranking title

Rivals threaten to expel England from five nations

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU), harassed by its own clubs at home, came under pressure from its five nations' championship partners last night over its dealings with television companies. The four other unions are so annoyed at English attempts to negotiate on their own behalf, that they threaten the 1996 champions with expulsion from the 1997-98 championship.

The five nations' committee met at Heathrow, with Wales, Scotland, Ireland and France in militant mood. Within the past month, tenders have been invited for the screening of the five nations' championship (the present BBC contract concludes at the end of next season), but the four countries believe that England seek, once more, to dominate the financial debate.

Frustration already exists over the RFU's refusal to allow its leading clubs to participate in this season's embryonic European competition, a frustration shared by the clubs themselves, who hope today for a definitive statement over the structure for next season. England's leading clubs want a 12-team first division rather than ten, as at present, and which the RFU is understood to favour.

Kerr, the chairman of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Limited, said: "All we are asking is that the first division clubs get a similar opportunity. We think it would be desperately unfair on clubs to deny them the chance to get to grips with professional rugby next season in the top flight."

There must have been times this season when the RFU has felt the whole world was against it. In part, it is reaping the inheritance of its forebears, those who forced through the lion's share of the last television agreement on the basis of England's greater viewing population and, over a good many years, those who adopted an autocratic attitude

to the organisation of the game.

Now, its best players and clubs demand to know where they stand in the new order, alongside a crisis of leadership within, created by the division over a new chairman of the union's executive committee, the post to which Cliff Brittle was elected. At the same time, the RFU seeks to inflict what it sees as a northern hemisphere equivalent of a provincial playing structure on an existing structure determined to resist it.

Orrell, meanwhile, have made sure of their first significant signing of the sport's new era when Franco Botica, the former New Zealand stand-off half, agreed a two-year contract believed to be worth more than £40,000.

Botica, 32, will, however, be spending the summer playing in the Super League for Castleford before turning his attentions to the code that he left in 1990 after seven appearances - mostly as understudy to Grant Fox - for the All Blacks.

He follows three Wales internationals - Jonathan Davies (to Cardiff), John Devereux and Adrian Hadley (both to Sale) - in reverting to rugby union after a league career. Botica spent most of that time with Wigan, for whom he recorded the fastest 1,000 points in league history.

Botica: returning to union

If Chardonnay is all you make, you get it right. Or else.

Such is the competition among Chardonnays, you need dedication to stand out. James Herrick spent 22 years studying the grape, from Champagne to the Barossa. Then he brought back the technical skills learned in the New World and blended them with Old World savoir-faire in the South of France. He planned Chardonnay and nothing but. He makes his own wine using his own grapes, and no other. And each vintage he produces a classic, elegant, powerful, long-finishing. Nothing else will do for him. Nothing less should do for you.

James Herrick
CHARDONNAY

AVAILABLE COUNTRYWIDE FROM PERKLEY WINE, COCKBURN'S OF LEITH, DAVENSONS, E.H. BOOTH, ELDRIDGE POPE, EUROPA, FULLER'S, HALL BATHON, ODDINS, RUSSELL CELLARS, SAINSBURY'S, SOMERFIELD, SPAR, THOS. PEATLING, UNWIN'S, VICTORIA WINE, WINE CELLAR

IN BRIEF

Second-half try spree puts Cardiff in hunt

CARDIFF kept alive their hopes of retaining the Heineken League rugby union title by picking up maximum points in a 41-13 win over Aberavon at the Talbot Athletic Ground yesterday. They picked up three bonus points courtesy of seven tries, to move up to third place and keep the pressure on Neath and Pontypriid.

After a sluggish start, Cardiff got their act together with six second-half tries, including three from Steve Ford, the wing, that lifted him to 19 league tries for the season — one short of the record. Cardiff's other tries came from Jonathan Humphreys, Andy Booth, Owain Williams and Adrian Davies, who also kicked three conversions.

Philip Wintle and Richard Diplock scored tries for Aberavon and Mark Watts kicked a penalty goal.

Biela sets pace for Audi

Motor racing: Frank Biela won the opening rounds of the Auto Trader RAC touring car championship at a center at Donington Park yesterday. It was a magnificent British debut for Audi and underlined the superiority of the four-wheel-drive Audi A4 over its two-wheel-drive rivals.

Biela's closest challenger was Will Hoy, the 1991 champion, whose Renault Laguna finished second in both races. Biela heads for the third and fourth rounds of the championship at Brands Hatch on April 21 with a seven-point lead over Hoy.

Bray in vain

Cycling: A lone attack by Simon Bray, the British, Welsh and universities road-race champion, brought him victory in the final stage of the Girvan three-day race, but was not enough to dislodge Dave Williams from the yellow jersey.

Williams, who had started the day with 37 seconds in hand over Mark Lovatt, finished third in the hilly 64-mile stage, allowing Bray to drift off the front with 20 miles to go before he was hauled in to finish seven seconds ahead.

Title retained

Equestrianism: Anky van Brusen, of Holland, retained the Volvo World Cup dressage title for the second year running at Gothenburg yesterday. She guided Camellion Bonfire through an intricate freestyle pattern that included a double pirouette which earned a top mark of ten from the chairman of the five judges.

Margit Otto-Crepin, of France, the 1989 winner, rode Lucky Lord into second and Klaus Balkenol, of Germany, finished third on Garcon.

Golden great

Golf: Jack Nicklaus scored the hundredth professional victory of his career at Scottsdale, Arizona, when he retained the Tradition title. He sealed his fourth win in the seniors tournament with a second successive round of 65, which gave him a 16-under aggregate of 272 — three better than Hale Irwin, the former US Open champion.

Kelly Robbins beat Val Skinner, her fellow American, on the fifth play-off hole to win the LPGA tournament in Lincoln, California.

Evans warms up

Athletics: Paul Evans, who will be trying to secure a place in the Great Britain Olympic team when he races in the Flora London Marathon on Sunday week, won the Fred Slater ten-kilometres road race at Peterborough yesterday. Evans took 1min 23sec off the course record to win in 28min 33sec.

Rider killed

Motorcycling: Marco Burrelli, the Italian superbike rider, was killed after a high-speed crash in an Italian championship race at Monza yesterday. Burrelli, 29, and another rider, Mauro Mastrelli, who is in serious condition in hospital, collided after slipping on oil.

Jalabert returns

Cycling: Laurent Jalabert, the world No.1, made a surprise return from a knee injury suffered in the Paris-Nice race last month to take the first stage of the 36th Basque Tour in Lasarte, Spain yesterday. The Frenchman won a sprint finish to the 120km first stage of the five-stage race.

Sinclair boosts Rangers' push towards safety

Queens Park Rangers 3
Everton 1

BY ALYSON RUDD

THIS is turning into a through-the-looking-glass season for Queens Park Rangers. They spent much of it worrying when there was really no need to and now, when relegation is more likely than not, they have jumped off the psychiatrist's couch to play free-flowing, counter-attacking football as if without a care in the world.

Victory against Everton moved them one place nearer safety. It was an exemplary team performance, with Sinclair top of the class and

Hateley bottom — but even the former Rangers forward managed a goal in the midst of an embarrassing overall contribution.

Everton, in the first half, gave a wonderful rendition of a team with nothing to play for. Only in the second half did they remember that there is a place in Europe at stake and at last they put the QPR goal under sustained pressure.

Fifteen minutes into the match, Everton were left exposed after a run by Sinclair, who had simply to slide the ball into Gallen's path for a goal. So many times this season, similar situations have failed to result in Gallen scoring. Yesterday, however, he confidently assessed the angle and beat Southall.

Sinclair was in one of his more effective moods. Indeed, Hinchcliffe was booked in the 27th minute after a clumsy attempt to stop one of the winger's dashes.

By contrast, Hateley seemed unable to do anything right. Sinclair found him unmarked in the penalty area. Hateley wasted the opportunity. Wilkins found him with a clever pass and Hateley booted the ball into no-man's land. But not even Hateley was going to squander Holloway's cross in the 32nd minute. Again he looped his header over Southall who remained motionless, simply glaring at his defenders.

Everton, lifted from their stupor by a half-time chat with Joe Royle, the

manager, almost scored within three minutes of the restart. Hinchcliffe fed the ball through to Ferguson, whose powerful shot hit the woodwork.

The second half gave QPR the chance to show off their new-found defensive repertoire and Brevet and Yates, in particular, were impressive. Sommer, too, played his part bravely meeting the ball when under pressure and refusing to be even gently shaken by the towering presence of Ferguson.

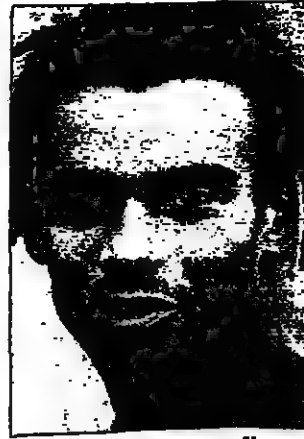
The home side then went 3-0 ahead. Sinclair, skipping down the right flank, chose to shoot while Impey, unmarked, called for a pass. The ball fell to Impey, anyway, on the rebound from Southall.

Everton snatched one goal from

their continued assault. Ebrell prodding the ball past Sommer after Ferguson had flicked the ball on to him. Thereafter, there was constant goalmouth action. Ferguson headed wide, wasting Hateley's cross, and Hateley once again squandered a ball from Sinclair.

After the final whistle the home supporters clung to each other in rapture as the day's other results were announced. All in all, a splendid day in west London.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): Sommer — D Barclay, A McDonald, S Yates, R Brevet — Sinclair, R Wiggins, Holloway, A Impey — K Gallen, M Hateley.
EVERTON (4-3-3): N Southall — T Mottiger, D Watson, D Unsworth (sub: C Short, 64min), A Hinchcliffe — S Home (sub: T Grant, 74), J Patterson, J Ebdon — A Kanchelskis, D Ferguson, A Lampard (sub: M Branch, 48).
Referee: P Dutton



Sinclair: commanding

Ball's beleaguered side shows little heart for Premiership survival battle

Timid City relegated to also-ran's role

Wimbledon 3
Manchester City 0

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

ON THE evidence of this abominable performance yesterday, Manchester City deserve to be relegated. Whether they do go down depends on how quickly they can put the memory of this game behind them, and how adversely results affect the other teams at the bottom. Should they drop out of the FA Carling Premiership, they will not be greatly missed.

Wimbledon, who needed the points almost as badly, are now all but safe, having achieved their third victory in four games. They utterly outplayed City, taking a fortieth-minute lead through Robbie Earle, who added a second two minutes after the interval.

A third goal, from Efan Ekoku, followed shortly afterwards as City gave up, which is the worst thing one can say about a professional side. There was no professional pride displayed by them at Selhurst Park yesterday.

City ended the game with three Germans and two Georgians in the number, and a lot of good it did them. Kinkladze, the dinky little forward, was followed everywhere by Cunningham and did next to nothing, but he was nowhere near as bad as Frontzeck, the German left back, whose lamentable performance was a collector's item.

Frontzeck had given the ball away on two occasions before he did so again five minutes before half-time. Jones accepted his pass with gratitude, set up Ardley, the full back, along the right, and, when his cross came in, Earle beat Immel with a powerful header that the goalkeeper could parry but not stop.

Earle made no secret of his intentions when the ball was in the air, but City let him do as he liked. When Gayle hit the bar immediately after the restart, Jones redirected the ball back across goal and



Earle, right, who scored Wimbledon's first two goals with headers, uses his feet in a tussle with Lomas yesterday. Photograph: Des Jenson

Earle headed his second goal. Then, Ekoku drove in a third, after Synnons had failed to clear. Wimbledon had turned a tiresome spectacle into a thumping victory.

City made just two chances. Kinkladze, released by Kavelashvili, his fellow Georgian, shot with his left foot when his right would have been more useful, and Sullivan blocked. To be honest, Kinkladze does not have a right foot. A minute from time, when Phillips skipped down the right, Kavelashvili sent a

header straight at the goalkeeper.

At first, Alan Ball, the City manager, declined to attend a post-match press conference, clearly not trusting himself to give diplomatic answers. He has never said much of interest throughout his undistinguished managerial career, and he is obviously finding it difficult to make his players listen to whatever he wants to impart.

Those players lacked any sense of spirit yesterday. Wimbledon were sharper to the

ball, which was no great distinction in a match this poor, and they made better use of it. City, with Clough anonymous in midfield and with all manner of weird things going on at the back, where Immel and his defenders were hardly on speaking terms, made a pitiful sight.

They remain fourth from the bottom and Ball eventually said: "If the season finished now, I would be happy." With the Coventry City and Southampton results going their way, it was not as bad a day as

it might have been, but they are still involved in a fight against relegation and may not avoid the drop.

"The first goal was a shocker," Ball said, his brow as black as thunder. "I thought in open play we made the better chances, but at free kicks we were not at all committed."

"These players are top professionals. They want the sunshine and everything that goes with it, but they have to accept responsibility and today too many of them did not."

Joe Kinnear, his Wimble-

don counterpart, was a happier man. "There was only going to be one winner today," he said. "We were much the more determined team and eased up a bit after the third goal. They [Manchester City] certainly need to do more than that if they are to stay up."

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — N Ardoy, J Pearce, C Perry, A Kinnear — R Earle, V Jones, K Cunningham, M Gayle (sub: A Clarke, 88min) — D Holdsworth, E Ekoku (sub: J Goodman, 75).
MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): E Immel — I Engrwali, R Clarke, K Synnons, M Frontzeck, N Sommerese (sub: M Phillips, 50), K Kinkladze, N Clough, S Lomas — N Quinn (sub: U Rosler, 60), M Kavelashvili.
Referee: G Poul

Sad Southampton beached by Yorke

Aston Villa 3
Southampton 0

BY PAT GIBSON

TWO flashes of brilliance by Dwight Yorke, skimming across the barren desert of Villa Park in his dazzling white boots as though he was playing beach football back in his native Tobago, lit up a game that did nothing to improve Southampton's chances of staying in the FA Carling Premiership.

Southampton had raised their hopes by beating Blackburn Rovers through a Le Tissier penalty at The Dell on Saturday and, for more than an hour yesterday, they clung to the hope that their talisman would be able to conjure something out of nothing.

He could not. Instead, it was Aston Villa, still playing with extraordinary commitment, even though they have a place in Europe secure, who broke the deadlock, scored two more and might have got six.

"The first goal killed us," Dave Merrington, the Southampton manager, said. "We set our stall out to do a specific job and I thought we had actually done that, because, until that one went in, I could not see Villa scoring."

Merrington must take his share of the blame. He had chosen the eccentric Grobbelaar in preference to Beasant and it was the goalkeeper's rush of blood, as he went for a Townsend corner without quite getting there, which enabled Taylor to head Villa ahead in the 64th minute.

Suddenly, Villa were rampant and two goals in the

space of three minutes settled the game. First, Yorke produced a wonderful piece of skill on the edge of the six-yard box and then squared the ball for Charles to slot in his first goal of the season.

Then, Yorke controlled a long pass from Taylor just inside the Southampton half with his back to goal. He flicked the ball over Neilson's head and outpaced the rest of the defence before planting a low shot out of Grobbelaar's reach. It was his 25th goal of the season.

Yorke might have scored three more after that. Townsend curled a 25-yard shot against the right-hand post and Johnson hit the other upright from the rebound. Then, in the last minute, Milosevic, clean through, hit Grobbelaar's legs with his first shot and a post with the second.

Southampton had no complaints, apart from the fact that Milosevic should not have been on the field at that stage. He should have been sent off seven minutes into the second half for striking Widdington, with whom he had been having a running battle.

"I saw him punch him in the head but unfortunately the officials did not," Merrington said. "I would not make an issue of it because it's a man's game, but it's a part of football I don't like." Needless to say, Brian Little, the Villa manager, did not see the incident.

ASTON VILLA (3-3-2): M Bowen — G Charles, U Erogwu, P McGrath (sub: R Sommer, 45min), I Taylor, A Wright, J Johnson, A Townsend, M Dunlop — D Yorke, S Milosevic.
SOUTHAMPTON (2-5-1): B Grobbelaar — J Dodd, T Widdington, F Beasant — A Nelson, D Hughes, B Vernon (sub: G Watson, 68), P Laidlaw, S Charlton — M Le Tissier — N Shepperson.
Referee: P Dutton

Reading unhinged by Freedman

Reading 0
Crystal Palace 2

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

WHILE automatic promotion is probably beyond Crystal Palace, this victory keeps them chugging along nicely towards the Endleigh Insurance League first division play-offs.

Reading, on the other hand, watched by their biggest crowd of the season, are looking even more nervously over their shoulders at the only three teams behind them in the table.

The finishing from both sides was weak, with the goalkeepers seldom called into action, although, when they were, Martyn, for Palace, was able to produce the

goods, while Sheppard, his opposite number, twice had to pick the ball out of his net.

Reading had the better of the first 44 minutes, almost scoring with their first attack when Caskey, unmarked, headed wide from a cross by Williams. Quinn and Gooding, the joint player-managers, each came within inches of putting their team ahead, while, for Palace, Freedman saw a gap and launched a run on goal, but lacked the pace to outstrip his pursuers.

Palace's best hope seemed to be Sheppard's uncertain kicking, which made his defenders' insistence on passing back to him at every opportunity all the more puzzling.

Finally, in the last minute of the half, there was one back-pass too many. Wdowczyk's header sold Sheppard short

and Freedman touched the ball past him before putting it into an empty net.

Wdowczyk, a Poland international, nearly made amends when Martyn had to dive full length to turn aside his free kick from 20 yards. From the resulting corner, Reading forced Martyn into another fine reflex stop from Parkinson's header.

Palace came close to extending their lead when Veart headed Edworthy's cross just past a post, but Reading went closer still as Lovell headed powerfully against the bar with Martyn out of position.

Just as Reading, their attack freshened by three substitutions, looked likely to force an equaliser, Freedman escaped the attentions of Houghton, took the ball to the byline and laid it into the path

of Houghton, who drilled it fiercely past Sheppard.

Although Tuttle's departure, for a second bookable offence, meant that Palace had to see out the last ten minutes a man short, Reading were unable to capitalise and left the field wondering about results elsewhere.

The main danger for Palace, unlikely as they are to be able to catch Derby County for second place, is running out of steam before the beginning of that other National Lottery, the play-offs.

READING (3-1-2): S Sheppard — A Bimal, P Houghton, R O'Leary, M Scott — G Parkinson (sub: M Houghton, 80min) — M Bony, M Gooding, D Caskey, M Gilbey — J Quinn (sub: L Nugent, 66), M Williams (sub: S Lovell, 59).
CRYSTAL PALACE (5-2-3): M Martyn — M Edworthy, G Davies, A Roberts, D Tuttle, K Brown — D Houghton, S Rodgers — D Houghton, D Freedman (sub: I Anderson, 77), C Veart (sub: B Dyer, 88).
Referee: G Poul

Sunderland in need of reinforcements

Sunderland 0
Charlton Athletic 0

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

HOW many Sunderland players might make the grade in the FA Carling Premiership? On the evidence at a breezy, bad-tempered Roker Park yesterday, ticks would be placed only next to the names of Martin Scott, the left back, and Richard Ord, a central defender. Question marks should be appended next to young Michael Bridges, Michael Gray, Sam Aiston and Craig Russell, who was missing through injury. As for the rest — forget it.

This match served to highlight the overriding need for substantial investment by

Sunderland this summer. The search for new talent should start now because, despite this stunner, Peter Reid's side remains top of the Endleigh Insurance League first division.

Missing automatic promotion would represent negligence on a grand scale, and Sunderland are far too well-organised for that. However, if the board neglects to find a minimum of £10 million, the side will undoubtedly be subjected to an appalling ordeal come August.

With nine established first-team players absent, this was a highly impressive performance by the London side. Petterson, Charlton's third-choice goalkeeper, producing a fine display in front of him,

young Bridges constantly caused anxiety among Charlton's back line, but this was a tight, tough fixture to make, at 17, a first league start.

All credit to Bridges for persistently linking play so well — passing, laying off, heading on and running into astute positions so well he might have been an old-timer. The scorer of four goals in nine appearances as a substitute, Bridges is seen as an apprentice Fowler or Scholes. Here, however, he had just one clear-cut chance before retiring exhausted.

Of more significance was that his link play was allied to a deceptive toughness. Bridges may look 15 but he picked himself up like a man after a cynical challenge from Whyte. The defender was cautioned

and, judging by the rash of raised studs, a few of his teammates are equally streetwise.

If Charlton were slightly fortunate to finish with 11 men, they deserved a point for stopping the likes of Gray and Bracewell. Yet Alan Curbishley's side found few answers to the right-wing questions asked by Aiston, a mop-haired teenager who kept Petterson's reflexes with his first touch. An exciting prospect, but would he be any match for a Pearce, Irwin or Hinchcliffe? Doubtful.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): A Chamberlain — D Kibicki, A Whyte, R Ord, M Scott — G Parkinson (sub: S Aiston, 70min), K Ball, S Goodwin, M Gray — P Stewart, M Bridges (sub: L Houghton, 77), J Quinn (sub: L Nugent, 66), M Williams (sub: S Lovell, 59).
CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A Petterson — S Newton, R Aiston, S Baines, C Brown, K Jones, J Robinson — C Lashburn, B Allen.
Referee: E Lomas

Bolton still managing to smile in the face of adversity

Bolton Wanderers 2
Chelsea 1

BY MARK HODKINSON

HOPE is ultimately more cruel than failure itself, but Colin Todd, the Bolton Wanderers manager, is set for another month at its mercy.

On Saturday, after a sound beating by Everton, Todd said that he had but a "glimmer" of hope that his team would avoid relegation from the FA Carling Premiership. After this win against Chelsea, the metaphorical glimmer has had its wattage increased somewhat and Todd is left once more to sup with a devil called Hope.

He revealed afterwards that he had told his team to relax and enjoy their football. "I spoke to the players about being relaxed and it showed at times," he said. "It was nice to see them play with a smile on their faces. They deserved the win and were a credit to themselves. I asked them to dig deep and they did."

In a match showing just fleeting touches of skill, Chelsea were not equal to Bolton's muscular endeavour. Wise and Spencer were joyous in battle, but often found themselves swamped by the sheer number of bodies coming at them in Bolton colours.

Chelsea took the lead in simplistic fashion. Gullit found Furlong, he reached the byline and Spencer hungrily crashed the ball past Ward.

Bolton were understandably nervous and their play was often fractured before they crossed the halfway line. Stubbs, however, cool in a crisis, fed McGinlay, who shielded the ball well before scoring with a low shot.

Just before half-time, Currie ambled towards Chelsea's goal and, from the edge of the penalty area, slammed the ball past Hitchcock. Currie kissed his club crest and raced along the perimeter fence touching the hand of every Bolton supporter that he passed.

The enterprise barely increased after the break, both teams compensating for a lack of skill with sweat. Currie was usually involved in the more controlled play, with Chelsea often employing illicit means to halt his progress. He was fouled on the edge of the penalty area and drove the resultant free kick into Chelsea's goal. It was disallowed because the free kick had been indirect and Currie's boot was the ball's only company before it hit the net.

Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, was disappointed with his side's capitulation. "It just wasn't good enough today; we're not learning from our mistakes," he said. "Bolton were worthy winners. They showed quality and were better with the ball than we were and we are supposed to be a ball-playing side."

Hoddle, once again, praised the form of Gullit, Wise and Spencer, but was upset that his team had lost three consecutive matches in which they had been in front.

Eulogies to Chelsea have been manifold and sustained this season, but they still trail in the Premiership behind sides such as Everton, Blackburn Rovers and West Ham United — teams that play a more coarse, unsophisticated game. Against Bolton, they had neither the class nor valour to raise themselves above a rugged dogfight.

For their part, Bolton are the renaissance men of the Premiership and, as Todd admitted, the drama will not finish until the last ball is kicked at the end of the season.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-1-1): G Ward — G Bergerson, C Fairclough, S Coleman, J Phillips, J McCarthy, A Stubbs, S Baines, A Thompson — S Currie — N Ball (sub: S Taylor, 83min).
CHELSEA (4-4-1-1): K Hitchcock — D Petterson (sub: G Bullock, 49), M Odum, D Lee, A Myers — D Wise, R Spacovski, S Spencer, S Milne (sub: G Peacock, 68) — R Gullit — P Furlong.
Referee: S Lodge

Tottenham ambition of place in Europe takes knock	Wednesday expose Arsenal's breach in security
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BY A CORRESPONDENT

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2). F
 Walker - P. Allerton, J. Newsome D
 Pressman, L. Biscoe - G. Whittingham, J.
 Sheridan, M. Pennington, R. Elniker (sub C
 Wadde, 83m) - D. Hirst (sub D
 Kovacevic, 83), M. Dagysse.

ARSENAL (3-4-1-2). D. Seaman - M.
 Keown, A. Linington, S. Marshall - L. Dixon, D.
 Platt, P. Merson, G. Helder (sub M. Rose, 66)
 D. Borgeamp - I. Vengli, J. Harrison (sub
 P. Shaw, 66)

Release: S. Dunn



By David Maddock

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): J Lukic — L Radebe (sub: J Harte, 48min), J Wetherald, C Palmer, G Kelly — A Gray, J Burt (sub: R Wallace, 46), G McAllister, G Speed — T Brooker, B Dzasa.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — A-I Hamand, C Cooper, S Christie, S Pearce — S Stone, S Gerrard, C Bani-Williams, I Wogan — K Campbell (sub: P McGregor, 83), J Lee

Reading: G. Hunt

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

21 at home to Rotherham United. For Torquay United, stranded at the foot of the third division, there was good news and bad news. First, the bad news: Plymouth Argyle won the derby at Plainmoor 2-0. Then, the good news: Stevenage Borough, top of the Vauxhall Conference, walloped Woking, their nearest rivals, 4-0. Stevenage cannot be promoted if they win the Conference because of ground restrictions, so Torquay may yet retain League status. The names of Venables, Hayles, Sodge and Trebble were cheered loudly in Devon.

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49	52	45	

POOLS CHECK

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FORECAST: Telephone claims are invited for 23 points and the dividend forecast is good. There were seven score draws and seven no score draws on the coupon.



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Bell plans to ring changes as Leeds suffer another Super League defeat

St Helens again pack powerful punch

Leeds 24
St Helens 46

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

DEAN BELL left his seat at Headingley to the mournful strains of *Yesterday*. His troubles look as if they are here to stay. Leeds coach to hide away, now that his side is bumping along the bottom of the Super League after a third successive defeat.

Asked if he thought whether St Helens would still be leading the new competition at the end of the first summer rugby league season, Bell had his doubts. He is not writing Wigan off and neither are St Helens. As to his own team's chances, Bell was sticking to his pre-season prediction of a top-four place. "I remain optimistic," he said.

This encounter underlined the differences between a team in transition and one that knows its abilities. Bell bases his hopes on imminent signings from overseas of a scrum-half, loose forward and centre, whereas St Helens have strength throughout a side of tremendous potential.

The my-scoring odyssey of Danny Arnold, 18, continued

with two more to add to his four against Workington and three against Wigan. Even though Hume, the former Great Britain wing, was fit again, he was put in at full back to allow Arnold to stay on the right flank. The teenager fully justified himself with a blistering 75-metre solo try to kill off brief Leeds resistance early in the second half.

For all the quicksilver in the back line, it is a redoubtable pack that is proving St Helens' main strength, and the vision and cunning around the rucks bely his 19 years. However, it is because Shaun McRae, their Australian coach, demands perfection that St Helens are rising to new heights.

The concession of four tries did not impress him. "Our defence was nowhere near as intense as it was against Wigan," he said, "but we will take the win. Three games in eight days at this level is not easy, but I am happy the players have got through this period."

For much of the first half, Leeds competed well enough, in spite of losing Harmon, who came off worst in a challenge on Perrelli, being carried off with a neck injury.

Amends for Fallon losing possession and Arnold getting his first try were swift. Cummins took advantage of a kind bounce to score, and Leeds skipped clear of Hume in support of a break-out by Mann and Iro.

From 16-6 down, the inspirational Bobbie Goulding hauled St Helens back and ahead, first with a penalty and then with a sweetly-timed pass to unleash Hume. Slippy defending allowed Northey in and the third and fourth of Goulding's nine successful strikes at goal gave St Helens a 20-14 lead at the break.

After Cummins got finger-tips to an accurate kick ahead by Gladhill early in the second period, home supporters in a near 12,000 crowd got briefly excited before Arnold's conclusive long-range try, the first of 20 points by St Helens without reply.

When they occasionally managed to get out of the bottleneck in their half, Leeds suffered from bouts of dropsy. Goulding was quick to seize on the errors, a switch inside setting up Newlove and a similar move providing Marlyn with a further try. In between, Cunningham twisted out of the tackles of Hume and Anthony Gibbons to plunder another.

With an embarrassment of ball, St Helens inevitably got careless. Fallon went virtually the length of the field when Sullivan fumbled close to the Leeds line. Nowadays, Leeds are grateful for small mercies.



Morley, the St Helens forward, needs two men to stop him at Headingley yesterday

Oldham press Paris

PARIS Saint-Germain clung to their unbeaten Super League home record in dramatic style, scoring late in the game to earn a 24-24 draw against Oldham.

Paris were trailing 24-18 when Paul Atheson, the Oldham full back, failed to clear a kick by Patrick Enia and Pascal Borna, the right wing, nipped in to score. Patrick Torrelles, the hooker, converted to leave Oldham and Paris each with three points from their first three matches.

Francis Maloney proved inspirational for Oldham, with a penalty, a conversion and a try.

Workington, however, are still chasing their first victory after Sheffield condemned them to another resounding defeat at Derwent Park. For an hour, Workington were in contention after clawing their way back from a 20-2 deficit to be within only four points, but Sheffield scored five tries in the final quarter to clinch victory as Workington ran out of steam.

First tour event starts with string of upsets

THE 61st English table tennis Open provided more than its fair share of surprises to usher in the sport's first professional tour at Kettering yesterday (Richard Eaton writes).

Jean-Michel Saive lost in his first tournament after becoming the world No. 1. Chen Jing, the Olympic champion in Seoul, lost in the women's singles final and Wang Tao and Lu Lin, the Barcelona gold medal winners, lost in the final of the men's doubles.

Wang and Lu were upset by Schlager and Jindrak, the greatly-improved Austrians, to give Europe an unexpected title, yet it was the same Wang who brought down Saive 21-13, 21-13, 21-12 in the singles semi-final, and led Kong Linghui, the world champion, by two games in a strangely saccharine final.

Almost as soon as Wang had established that lead with

his early-ball hits and smashers behind his service, it faltered and Kong, without ever playing well, advanced to a 12-21, 14-21, 21-14, 21-14 success.

"It is difficult to compete against a team-mate you play against so often," Wang said. "We know each other too well. You can only do your best."

Nevertheless, that best was disappointing, even though the results in both singles events may generate interest elsewhere in the world at the start of the inaugural ten-tournament tour.

Yang Ying, who, at 18, could easily become a world or Olympic champion, won 21-14, 21-16, 21-18 against Chen Jin, unleashing a towering toss on her service and battery of flat attacks behind it. Earlier in the tournament, she had beaten Geng Lijuan, the No 2 seed.

Hightown set gold standard

BY ALIX RAMSAY AND SYDNEY FRISKIN

TWO goals in ten minutes from Tina Cullen proved enough to give Hightown the gold medal in the women's European Cup Winners' Cup of hockey in Rotterdam yesterday. Playing Berlin's favourites and former European champions, Hightown won the final 2-1 after Cullen's scoring prowess had done the damage in the second half.

Things had looked promising, if tense, in the first half with Hightown controlling the match but unable to make a breakthrough. At the start of the second half, however, the Germans launched an all-out attack on Carolyn Reid's goal and Hightown made the most of the extra space, catching them on the break.

Cullen struck her first after 51 minutes and the second just over an hour gone. It brought her tally of goals to nine in four matches over the

weekend. Despite pulling one goal back with a penalty stroke from Karin Kauschke, Berlin had too much to do.

It is the second time that Maggie Souyave, the Hightown player-coach, has planned the downfall of the German favourites in Europe this season. In January, she coached England to victory over Germany in the final of the European indoor championship, the first time that Germany had lost the title.

This time, at club level, she would initially allow herself optimism as Hightown aimed for a medal. Now, the only thing left for Souyave and Hightown is their first national league title, which will be decided next weekend.

In the men's competition, Guildford ended their campaign in The Hague by winning the bronze medal. Two

late goals by Ian Jennings from short corners sealed a 4-2 victory over Valdeuz, the Spanish club, in the play-off for third place. Guildford had the added consolation of carrying off the Fair Play Cup.

The Spaniards went ahead in the ninth minute when Iglesias converted a short corner, but their joy was short-lived with Williams levelling within two minutes. Hall's score in the 25th minute put Guildford in the lead, but that cancelled out a minute before half-time by Cobos.

Jennings restored Guildford's lead, however, with his first goal, in the 49th minute, and added his second five minutes before the end.

In a thrilling final, Drunkheimer, of Germany, drew 2-2 with HDM, the host club, to send the match into a penalty-stroke competition which Drunkheimer won 3-2.

Jansher keeps firm grip on precious title

JANSHER KHAN underlined the importance that he places on the Leekes British Open squash championship after winning his fifth successive title (Colin McCulligan writes).

Jansher, of Pakistan, overcame Rodney Eyles, of Australia, 15-13, 15-8, 15-10 in Cardiff and said: "I feel as if I have been playing the British Open for a month. The title is so important to me and to the whole of Pakistan. We have such a strong connection to its history."

"The World Open is important and I have to win the Pakistan Open, but the pressure from everyone in Pakistan when the British Open is coming is just so great."

Michelle Martin, of Australia, lifted her fourth successive women's title by beating Sarah FitzGerald, her compatriot, 1-9, 9-1, 9-7.

Lighter Sherry weighing up expert evidence

John Hopkins finds his fellow Scots at Augusta offering the Amateur champion wise counsel



Gordon Sherry had two aims when he eased his long legs out of bed in Augusta, Georgia, yesterday morning. The first was to eat the cake baked to mark his 22nd birthday; the second was to familiarise himself with Augusta National golf club.

The first was the greater challenge. For Sherry, like Colin Montgomerie, has gone slimline. The Amateur champion is still very tall, but now much slimmer.

When Sam Torrance met him, he chided his countryman: "You're skinny."

"Aye," Sherry replied. "I've lost three stone. I was up to 20 stone. I did it by dieting, by watching what I was eating."

"Watching it instead of eating it," Torrance interjected. "I did not do it by dieting," Sherry, who is 6ft 8in, said. "I couldn't run the length of myself."

It was Sherry's first full day at the US Masters, at the golf club made famous by Bobby Jones, the great amateur. He will not be staying in the Crow's Nest accommodation at the top of the white, wooden clubhouse, which is available to visiting amateurs.

"Beds are too small," Sherry said. "Open the door and you're out the window," Torrance said.

The task facing Sherry is as big as his size 13 golf shoes. No British amateur has ever beaten par in any round at Augusta National, and only Peter McEvoy, in 1978, has survived the 36-hole cut.

After rounds of 73 and 75, McEvoy was only seven strokes behind the halfway leader. His next two rounds were both 77 and he finished with a total of 302.

Yet, no British amateur has arrived at Augusta with so many hosannas ringing in his ears as Sherry, who finished fourth in the 1995 Scottish Open and was the cornerstone of the victorious Walker Cup team at Royal Portcullis.

His warm personality has won him nearly as many friends and well-wishers as his golf, which drew praise from Tom Watson, Jack Nicklaus and Greg Norman at the Open at St Andrews last year.

Although Sherry spent a



Sherry: hoping to match McEvoy

time, said, "The winner always seems to take a double bogey, so don't worry. Never try to make a birdie, because that is when sixes and sevens enter the equation."

"Whatever you do, don't think it is too easy," Sandy Lyle, the champion in 1988, cautioned. "At first sight, it looks an easy course, but it is not. It has wide fairways and big greens, but that is when it grabs you."

"Be patient. It is a course that doesn't give you any peace and quiet. It does not allow you to get into a routine. You have to use your imagination and your brains."

Sherry has plenty of both, combining the deft touch that many big men have with the brains to have read biophysics at Stirling University. He will turn professional next Monday, and enter his first tournament as a professional in Italy next month.

Meanwhile, he has a practice round with Watson pencilled in for today and one with Norman tomorrow. Gordon Sherry, it can be said with some confidence, has arrived.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

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Feathered Gale has Sandown in sights

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT FAIRYHOUSE

JODAMI reserved his best performance of the season so far for the Jameson Irish National at Fairyhouse yesterday but he was denied another valuable victory in Ireland by Arthur Moore's first success in this event as a trainer.

Moore won the race as a jockey on Kingsprite in 1971, and he was clearly very fit as

BIG-RACE RESULT

Going: good
3.55 JAMESON IRISH NATIONAL CHASE (Handicap) £52,700 (3m 5f)
1. Feathered Gale (F Woods, 8-1)
2. Jodami (M Dwyer, 5-1 fav)
3. Cool Dawn (C O'Dwyer, 5-2 fav)
4. Go Go (Gallagher, 10-1)
5. Lord of the Gale (J. J. O'Brien, 10-1)
6. Lord of the Gale (J. J. O'Brien, 10-1)
7. Lord of the Gale (J. J. O'Brien, 10-1)
8. Lord of the Gale (J. J. O'Brien, 10-1)
9. Lord of the Gale (J. J. O'Brien, 10-1)
10. Lord of the Gale (J. J. O'Brien, 10-1)

delighted yesterday and, as with Klairon Davis at the Cheltenham Festival, placed his tribby hat on Feathered Gale's head, amid raucous cheers, in the winner's enclosure.

"This is an ambition fulfilled. I have had so many placed horses in the race, including this fellow who was a gallant third last year. But the ground was perfect for him today and he is a better horse



Feathered Gale jumps ahead of Jodami at the last on his way to an emphatic victory at Fairyhouse yesterday

now than he was last year,"

Moore said. Feathered Gale, who won by eight lengths, looked to be in trouble after making a mistake five out. At this stage, the race looked to be between Jodami, who had been backed

down to 5-1 favourite, Fergie

Sutherland's Go Go Gallant and the Robert Alner-trained Cool Dawn, who had set a furious pace for much of the race.

However, on the turn for home, Cool Dawn began to

weaken and Francis Woods

drove Feathered Gale up to challenge Jodami. Woods said: "I was always

niggling and three fences out I thought the best I could do

was to be placed, but he then

seemed to get a new lease of life and from the second last he just ran away from them."

Moore said that Feathered Gale is a probable runner for the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown on April 27, when he could well clash with Jodami again.

Mark Dwyer was confident Jodami would win turning for home but reported that the horse got very tired. "He ran a blinder and it was a great training performance by Peter Beaumont to bring him back after all his problems," Dwyer added.

Cool Dawn ran a fine race for Conor O'Dwyer, who replaced owner Dido Harding in the saddle. They led on touching down over the first and remained prominent. "He tore over the next few fences as well and he gave me a super ride," O'Dwyer said. "I have no excuses and the horse really enjoyed it. He is better than a hunter."

Alner said that Cool Dawn is not yet finished for this term. "This is only his third race of the season so we will sit back and see what we can find for him. Conner gave him a lovely ride and let him do his own thing," Alner said.

Norman Conqueror, the Queen Mother's first runner in Ireland for 25 years, was in contention to two but broke a bone in his near fore knee and was pulled up by Tommy Treacy. The injury requires pinning and an operation will be carried out locally today.

Richard Dunwoody was stood down for the rest of the meeting after taking a heavy fall from Lord Singapore in the big race, but he will be fit to ride Ventura Canyon in today's Power Gold Cup. Dwyer will also be riding at Fairyhouse to take the Jimmy Fitzgerald-trained Nijmegen in the Bisquit Cognac Handicap Hurdle.

WETHERBY

THUNDERER
2.20 Potter's Bay
2.50 Newlands-General
3.20 Erzdjan
Carl Evans: 4.20 Copper Thistle.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 112143 6000 TIMES 12 (8F, 6.5) (M) 2 (R) 10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pl
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-1	-12
10102	B Minna	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-3	+36
10203	A Colon	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	-21
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-21
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10303	A Fittis	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	-6	+47
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	+2	-7
10502	M Beesley	Leeds United	0.75	0	-9
10601	P Smicsek	Newcastle United	3.00	-7	-5
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Hlop	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	+3
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-3	+2
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-3	-46
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	-1	-23
10903	P Head	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-36
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	+5	+5
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	-1	-28
11101	D Kharina	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8
11102	K Hinchcock	Chelsea	1.00	-3	-15
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1	+29
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-5	-46
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-6
11401	L Mladso	West Ham United	2.50	-1	-12
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	-5
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-5	+2
11502	J Kearton	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	+5	-33
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11701	J Folan	Manchester City	1.50	0	0
11702	D Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11703	E Irmel	Manchester City	2.00	-5	-41
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	-1	+29
11803	M Oakes	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	-13
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-58
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-5
12003	G Ward	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-5	-5



David Platt made life difficult for his team, Fantasia, by including players from struggling Premiership teams

The pros and cons of ITF play

THERE are but a handful of games left to decide the winners and losers in both the FA Carling Premiership and Interactive Team Football (ITF). And while the 200,000 plus competitors in the ITF jostle for position, studying the form, fixtures and tea leaves to squeeze the maximum number of points from the remaining games, the professionals in the PFA league are far more relaxed about their fate.

Barring accident, disqualification or act of God, Jan Molby's Danish Dynamite will win the £5,000 cheque for the players' Benevolent Fund.

Alix Ramsay takes a look at some of the leading teams entered by PFA members

Molby has been leading since Christmas and now has moved 48 points ahead of the field. Simon Webster from West Ham and Mark Powell from Bolton Wanderers have been doing their best to turn it into a three-horse race, but have been nipped by expensive but goal-shy strikers.

What remains is the race for the minor placings, not so much to earn a place in Europe but to save the bar-racking in the dressing room.

points behind Steve Clarke's JC's Superstars in 10th.

Platt hardly made things easy for himself with the inclusion of Richard Snodgrass and Andy Impey from the relegation contenders, Bolton and Queens Park Rangers. Add to that the problems over Marc Hotiger and his work permit and the collapse of Leeds — Platt's £3 million outlay on Carlton Palmer has gained him just 15 points — and Fantasia was in trouble early on.

Strangely enough, it is the players who have had a rough ride this season who have done well in the ITF. Obviously months of clinging to the bottom of the Premiership and staring Endfield Division one in the face focusses the mind.

At the other end of the table, the Newcastle boys, all nine of them, have learned little from their boss, Kevin Keegan.

Then again, Messrs Beresford, Beardsley, Albert and friends have a paltry £35 million to spend on their teams. The way Keegan spends money, that is no more than petty cash.

HOW THE PROFESSIONALS' ITF TEAMS ARE FARING

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Danish Dynamite	(J Molby)	471	16	Whitby Winners	(S Whitaker)	356
2	West Ham United	(M Powell)	423	17	The Crazy Boys	(N McDonald)	357
3	Nash FC	(M Powell)	405	18	Blitz	(D Peacock)	358
4	Ratzen Norwegian	(S Pearce)	391	19	Dodgy Barnets Eleven	(J Beresford)	351
5	Cardiffs Blues	(D Busch)	389	20	J & F FC	(J Beresford)	349
6	Teds XI	(S Pearce)	383	21	The Fab 12	(F Delaney)	349
7	Druid Select	(S Morgan)	382	22	Pure Silk	(T Searles)	348
8	Mace Monarchs	(A McDonald)	379	23	The Shrews	(J Spencer)	344
9	The Ruff Necks	(P Ford)	375	24	Bulldock Team	(S Stone)	344
10	JC's Superstars	(S Clarke)	371	25	Change Ltd	(S Stone)	342
11	Southside Old Boys	(M Allen)	369	26	Barbers Follies	(S Barker)	341
12	Fantasia	(D Platt)	366	27	Nylon Holders	(G Galtrey)	340
13	The Moody Blues	(N Spackman)	365	28	Kanaria City Kings	(T Braker)	338
14	The Travellers	(L Hunt)	363	29	Bruce Bonus	(A Hinchcliffe)	338
15	Poole	(M Kennedy)	360	30	Eleven From Heaven	(A Umper)	337

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pl
30801	D Maddix	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-13
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-1	-13
30803	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-1	+3
30805	K Ready	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	-10
30901	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-4
30902	A Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-5
30903	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-16
30904	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-16
30905	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.50	-3	-3
31001	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	+1	+6
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	+4	+15
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	0	+7
31101	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	+0	+12
31102	J Kjeldberg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	+5
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	-1	+19
31105	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	-2	+2
31201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	0	+27
31202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+23
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	0	+10
31204	A Lingham	Arsenal	1.50	0	+10
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-17
31303	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	0	+15
31402	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	0	+13
31403	A Martin	West Ham United	1.00	0	+20
31405	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
31406	S Billic	West Ham United	1.50	-1	+4
31501	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+4	+38
31502	D Winsor	Everton	2.50	+4	+28
31503	C Short	Everton	2.50	0	-15
31602	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-7
31603	D Busch	Coventry City	0.75	+4	+5
31604	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-15
31605	M Walker	Coventry City	2.50	0	-17
31606	L Dula	Coventry City	1.50	+4	+3
31701	K Curle	Manchester City	1.50	-3	+3
31702	A Kermaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-3
31704	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	-2	+5
31801	U Elguio	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+36
31802	P McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	-1	+25
31804	C Tiler	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+17
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+21
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	0
31904	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	+18
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-2	+13
32002	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-2	-20
32003	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-2	+1
32004	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-10
32005	G Strong	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pl
40308	S Howe	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
40401	S McMenamin	Liverpool	6.50	+2	+73
40402	J Redknapp	Liverpool	2.50	+2	+26
40403	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+2	+58
40405	M Thomas	Liverpool	1.50	0	-28
40406	M Kennedy	Liverpool	2.00	0	+1
40411	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	+1	+47
40501	G McAllister	Leeds United	4.00	+3	+59
40502	G Speed	Leeds United	4.00	+3	+41
40503	R Wallace	Leeds United	2.50	0	+23
40505	L Radebe	Leeds United	0.75	+2	+9
40506	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+3
40507	A Couzens	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2
40508	M Ford	Leeds United	1.00	0	+9
40601	R Lee	Newcastle United	4.50	+2	+52
40603	D Givens	Newcastle United	4.50	+3	+42
40604	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+30
40605	L Clark	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+35
40607	S Watson	Newcastle United	1.50	+2	0
40608	C Holland	Newcastle United	0.75	0	0
40609	R Elliott	Newcastle United	0.75	0	+1
40610	D Batty	Newcastle United	1.50	+1	+33
40701	D Anderson	Tottenham Hotspur	6.50	0	+3
40702	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+34
40703	J Dozzell	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	+1	+28
40705	G McMahon	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	+7
40707	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+1	+50
40708	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+1	+18
40801	S Barker	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	+33
40802	J Holloway	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	+3	+23
40803	A Impey	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+1	+36
40804	T Sinclair	Queens Park Rangers	3.00	+1	+41
40805	G Goodridge	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	+1
40806	N Quashie	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	+9
40810	M Brazier	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	0
40901	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	+2	+19
40902	R Earle	Wimbledon	2.50	+1	+52
40903	M Gayle	Wimbledon	1.50	+1	+39
40904	Q Laursen	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+42
40905	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.75	+1	+1
40906	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+3
41001	J Magilton	Southampton	3.00	0	+51
41002	N Maddison	Southampton	2.00	0	+17
41003	N Heaney	Southampton	2.50	+1	+18
41005	D Hughes	Southampton	0.75	+2	+8
41006	T Widdington	Southampton	1.50	+3	+28
41007	B Venison	Southampton	1.50	0	+20
41008	M Walters	Southampton	1.50	0	+7
41101	D Wise	Chelsea	5.00	0	+49
41102	R Gullitt	Chelsea	4.00	+1	+52
41103	G Peacock	Chelsea	3.00	0	+39
41104	D Rocastle	Chelsea	1.50	0	+1
41105	N Spackman	Chelsea	0.75	0	+9
41106	C Burley	Chelsea	1.00	+1	+17
41108	E Newton	Chelsea	0.75	0	+32
41201	G Holder	Arsenal	4.00	0	+25
41202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	+1	+57
41204	R Parfou	Arsenal	2.00	0	+17
41205	E McGoldrick	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
41206	D Hillier	Arsenal	1.00	0	+6
41207	J Jensen	Arsenal	1.00	0	+16
41208	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	+1	+40
41209	A Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+2
41301	J Sheridan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+10
41303	C Waddie	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+32
41304	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+17
41305	K Ingheson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+5
41306	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	0
41307	M Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+2
41308	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	+16
41309	M Pemberton	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+3	+28
41401	J Moncur	West Ham United	3.00	0	+19
41405	I Bishop	West Ham United	1.50	+1	+45

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Exp	Wk	Pl
41406	D Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0	0
41409	R Slater	West Ham United	1.00	0	+21
41410	S Lazarides	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+1	+37
41412	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.00	+1	+27
41413	I Dumitrescu	West Ham United	4.00	0	+7
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	+2	+30
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	0	+38
41503	A Limpar	Everton	2.50	0	+27
41504	B Horne	Everton	1.50	+2	+26
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	+2	+37
41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50	-2	+14
41509	A Kanchelskis	Everton	6.00	+4	+66
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+2	+29
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+3
41607	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+34
41608	M Isaacs	Coventry City	3.00	0	+9
41609	C Battista	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	-1	+43
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+38
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	0	+38
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+21
41706	N Summerbee	Manchester City	1.50	0	+37
41707	G Knikladze	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+51
41708	N Clough	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+22
41709	C Brown	Manchester City	1.00	0	+1
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+37
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+34
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+46
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	+4
41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+58
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+28
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+1
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+2
41904	R Musoke	Middlesbrough	0.75	+1	+28
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+34
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	+1	+22
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+11
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+15
42007	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0
42008	S Sellers	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+30
42009	S Cusick	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1	+28

Toil and transfers mean race goes down to the wire

108	The Rainbow Connection	(G Weiss)	535	178	Bullfinch Golden Playe	(G Sullivan)	529
108	Wolfsbane	(K Booth)	535	178	The Fitty Granders	(R N Smith)	529
108	Forgies Flay	(P Simpson)	535	178	Orbital Brains	(S Broome)	529
115	No Fear Unit	(G Saunders)	534	178	No Defence Oil	(J B Portwood)	529
116	Enema Men	(W Doyle)	534	178	Traillstick Town	(M Phillips)	529
117	Quinton Forest	(J Baker)	533	178	Gibbins Terry Mark	(T Gibbins)	529
117	Bon Accord	(J Nelson)	533	178	Emmy Bee	(E Burkinshar)	529
117	Wimpie Ud	(A Heath)	533	178	Parfick Thistle 4	(C Nicoll)	529
117	Stevens Lions FC	(S Brown)	533	190	—	—	529
117	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	533	190	JRFC 2	(J J Rolt)	529
117	Pardian Seagulls	(D Stojkovic)	533	180	The Young Gulls	(B Shepherd)	529
117	Tarnam United	(NU Lane)	533	190	Totteridge United	(D Seal)	529
124	—	(N Thompson)	532	190	JK's Dolphins	(J F Kitchen)	529
124	West Ham Alliance	(P Cook)	532	190	Telham	(T Wood)	529
124	Old ooz	(D McGregor)	532	190	The Black Knights	(R A Green)	529
124	Kissers Two	(E Kirby)	532	190	Adams Mill FC Good 1	(R Pike)	529
128	Pullisers Army	(J Pregon)	531	190	Blam Jam Newtown	(J Whitford)	529
128	Beautiful Bankers	(C Alavoine)	531	190	Palm Bay XI	(R Hall)	529
128	Richardsens Rubies	(J Richardson)	531	200	Headstar	(I Stokes)	529
131	Nippers	(K Hughes)	530	200	Nuroton Unit II	(W Warner)	529
131	Street FC	(S Bartlett)	530	200	Edwards Engineers	(R Edden)	529
131	Wallace & Gornall FC	(S Hyams)	530	200	The Conjurors	(D J Farmer)	529
131	Whithead Unit	(K Hughes)	530	200	Hazellrigg Magic XI	(R Baghratran)	529
131	Triple Peasers	(J B Portwood)	530	200	Low Boyles Unit 3	(T Garmange)	529
131	Carling XI	(P Parks)	530	200	Plattys United	(Ms Allison)	529
131	Ton's Tormentors	(B Ton)	530	200	Rghard's Rebels	(A Targett)	529
131	Doer Rangers	(I Clayton)	530	200	Antlows's Allstars	(A Suggitt)	529
131	Elves	(M Minasian)	530	200	The Dream Team	(C Farrell)	529
140	Kissups Three	(E J Kirby)	529	200	Menage A Onze 2	(P Young)	529
141	Shaw's Sevens	(S Trinkl)	528	200	Racing Club Hamel	(G Williams)	529
141	Edlie's Eagles	(E Woods)	528	200	Narcus	(S Bahdjegian)	529
141	Harrington Inter	(D Lovell)	528	213	Get A Life New	(N Kearley)	519
141	Boling Boling Sals	(T Home)	528	213	Halla Angels	(R Thompson)	519
145	Rushall Rabbits	(J Whitley)	527	213	New Babes Eleven	(J Goodwin)	519
145	Old Turf	(J Ralcliff)	527	213	Stu's Dirty Dozen	(S House)	519
145	Tidehurst Tornadoes	(D Chamberlain)	527	213	Northbank Cardigan	(S Smith)	519
145	Abergavenny Rovers	(S Smith)	527	213	The Mighty Duveton	(D Hall)	519
145	No Sam Today	(N Webb)	527	213	Stunk City	(M Franks)	519
145	The Tinkerbell	(S Westhead)	527	213	The Magicicans	(A Cressgan)	519
145	Exgerton Park	(P Rhoades)	527	213	Team Tobias	(P Tobias)	519
152	Oswen Stones FC	(P McCauley)	526	213	Randy Rovers	(F Phillips)	519
152	Upson	(S Kavanagh)	526	223	Alsean Dynamoes	(A Hill)	519
152	Warren Wizards	(J Buckle)	526	223	Yarm XI	(J Rogers)	519
152	Stigwig Unit	(S Gorso)	526	223	Death Or Glory	(A T Davies)	519
152	Bart Trautmann XI	(M Podger)	526	223	Northern Nashers	(P Sansom)	519
152	Marston The Person	(S Blane)	526	223	Victoria Vanitas	(D Gunter)	519
152	Chiche	(S Talvill)	526	228	C	(M Corlees)	517
156	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	526	228	Noida Rangers	(A G W Whyts)	517
156	Only Can Saver	(M McGowan)	525	228	Seven Kings FC	(S Siddiqui)	517
156	Seol Unit	(B Scollick)	525	228	QPR Auctioneers A	(S Kempner)	517
156	Andy's Elvies	(A Poole)	525	228	BBC's Best Pirates	(J Sufin)	517
156	Lewsey Farm	(R Conway)	525	228	Inter Adagio	(S Siddle)	517
156	The 2 Units	(M Forde)	525	228	Real Madras FC 2nd	(P Bradley)	517
156	The Gentlemen	(D Grassick)	525	228	—	—	517
156	Hobbes Rangers	(R E Robinson)	525	228	Arabast	(G Howitt)	517
156	Red Star Richmond	(S T Glenville)	525	228	Overhill Rovers	(M James)	517
156	Thornhill United	(P O'Dowd)	524	228	APD FC	(P Dowding)	517
156	Wells E Wander	(A Wells)	524	228	Kims Kichens	(G Sutton)	517
156	Boals Guardained	(B Gordon)	524	228			

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Tel/fax 0116 244 8870.

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● NEXT WEEK: THE CHILDREN WHO KILL

Gary Slapper on the problems of a legal system to prevent nuisance and noise

When the loud barking of a neighbour's puppy got the better of Nicholas Farnell, he hit the owner on the head with a crowbar and killed him. Farnell has just been given a life sentence for murder. In the past year alone there have been three killings, one suicide, several arson attacks and thousands of fights after disputes between neighbours about noise.

Over the past four years 18 people have been killed in such disputes. Last September, for example, Paul Thurston was jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court after he threw a firebomb into a noisy party, causing the death of a young mother. Clearly, the law of nuisance, which seeks to balance the interests of citizens with conflicting desires, is failing when criminal law is so often left to pick up the pieces.

The scale of the problem is enormous. Nationally, councils now receive 300 complaints a day about unacceptable levels of noise from neighbours. In 1997 there were 976 official complaints about neighbour noise and last year there were more than 112,000.

A recent poll found that one person in ten considered their home life to be ruined by noise. A survey by the Government's Building Research Establishment found that more than half the homes in England and Wales suffered daytime noise levels above the 45 decibels recommended by the World Health Organisation. After sunset, two thirds were exposed to noise above the recommended 35-decibel limit. The research discovered emotions ran so high that people spoke of hatred, revenge and murder when asked what they felt about those responsible.

The basic principle of English law is that an actionable nuisance at common law occurs where there is an unreasonable interference with someone's use of their land. It occurs if someone permits an excessive or abnormal noise which materially affects the ordinary health and comfort of ordinary people according to the plain and sober notions of right-minded people.

There is a judge said in 1862, "a rule of give and take, live and let live". In assessing this question, the courts will take into account the character of the area: so different standards apply for quiet residential areas, inner cities and industrial areas.

It is no defence for the defendant to argue that he or she has done everything he can to lessen the disturbance (such as disciplining dogs) if the noise is still something that the neighbours should not reasonably have to tolerate. Neither can the defence argue that the complainant "came to the nuisance" because they moved residence close to a previously existing disturbance.

There is no rule about the necessary duration of a nuisance, but the longer it continues, the more likely it will be classified as a nuisance. Dam-



This gathering is well-behaved; but an out-of-control party can lead to a visit from a local authority noise patrol, right

Let's try to keep the peace

ages are an available remedy, as is an injunction. But before granting the latter remedy, a judge must be persuaded that the nuisance is substantial, continuing and likely to continue unless the injunction is granted.

The law of nuisance really protects not only the right to enjoy property, but also, through such a right, the protection of the value of property. Earlier, this year, Violet Lamb, a widow of 79 who sold her house without telling the purchasers that she had complained about a noisy neighbour, had to pay £15,000 damages, representing the amount by which the house was devalued by having a neighbour who carried out noisy car repairs in his drive.

Now both Harry Greenway, MP — in a Private Member's Bill, which has cross-party support — and the Labour Party have advanced plans to tackle the problem with new legal measures.

Last year, in several cities, the Government piloted a scheme under which noisy neighbours faced instant £40 fines if they refused to heed warnings to turn down the volume from stereos or domestic machinery operating above 35 decibels between 11pm and 7am. Persistent offenders faced court fines of up to

£1,000. The Department of the Environment points out that 35 decibels is equivalent to the amount of noise generated by a television set or radio in a room with closed windows on a busy street.

But the system operated on the basis that a complainant had to ring the council, whose officers visited the supposedly offending premises and, where necessary, served a warning. Fines could be imposed if the warnings were ignored. Officers also had the power to confiscate music systems. This system is now largely incorporated in the Noise Bill, sponsored by Mr Greenway and which has just passed committee stage. The proposed on-the-spot fine has been raised to £100.

Labour has proposed legislation enabling antisocial neighbours to be jailed for up to seven years. In a paper last year, Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, argued that the system was unable to deal with low-level but chronic crime committed over several months. According to Mr Straw, the problem is that "the criminal justice system deals only in snapshots and not as it were with a continuous film". Mr Straw proposes a new Community Safety Order — a

type of injunction to restrain criminal antisocial behaviour by individuals or a group. This could be prompted by antagonistic behaviour, including insults, threats of intimidation, minor assaults, noise, racial harassment or the use of aggressive dogs. Breaching the order, which could include curfews of exclusion from a particular area, would be punishable by imprisonment.

The new order would be obtained in a magistrates' or County Court by a senior police officer or chief executive of a local council. To avoid witness intimidation, evidence could be presented without identifying the complainant.

How far any new legal scheme can effectively keep the peace between dog lovers and haters is open to debate. In a 1990 noise-nuisance survey by Bupa, the health insurance company, barking dogs came top of a league of 48 other unpleasant sounds, beating pneumatic drills and heavy traffic. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, neighbours can bring their own prosecution against dog owners in the magistrates' courts. Criminal legal aid is largely defendant-supportive, so most complainants do not get funding and are often unable to finance a case with a possible £1,000 bill.

There are technological ways of trying to deal with nuisance. More than 150 local authorities have now bought a machine that records sound levels alongside the date and time. But it is often difficult to prove sustained noisiness if the suspect becomes aware of the testing. In America and Japan, sound-sensitive electric collars are commonly used to give dogs a short sharp shock each time they bark, but such techniques are manifestly cruel and unnatural.

● Dr Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law at Staffordshire University.

Divine intervention in the courtroom

The American Bar Association Journal recently reported on the problem of "bench stress", or "black robe fever", which causes judges to behave in an irritable and offensive manner to those who appear in their courts. Among recent examples of judicial misbehaviour, even more reprehensible than the Philadelphia judge who threw a glass of water at a lawyer making unpersuasive submissions, was the judge in Louisiana who told an argumentative witness that in his court he was "God".

An adequate research study has yet to be conducted on the relationship between the judiciary and the Almighty. But a recent judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has demonstrated that judges make errors of law even when they believe that their decisions have been blessed with divine inspiration, with the judge claiming to have received more assistance from above than from counsel in the case.

In February, the Privy Council allowed an appeal in *Logan v The Queen*, a criminal case from Belize. The Privy Council held that it had jurisdiction to hear the appeal, rejecting the contrary view as expressed by the Chief Justice of Belize, Sir George Brown, in the *Lauriano* case, in September 1995. Immediately before giving his decision in *Lauriano*, the Chief Justice had explained in court that "I think the judgment itself is one which is not directly from me in person, but through me". He commented that "the answer to the case came to me" on a Sunday night. It was a "divine inspiration" which "goes to the glory of God".

The Chief Justice of Belize is not the first judge to have claimed assistance from a source not available on the Internet when considering difficult points of law. During the *Gay News* blasphemy trial at the Old Bailey in 1977, Judge Alan King-Hamilton was (according to his autobiography) "half-conscious of being guided by some supernatural inspiration" throughout the preparation and delivery of his summing-up to the jury.

Indeed, whether or not the judge enjoys spiritual assistance from a supernatural *amicus curiae* (friend of the court), it may help the conduct of judicial business if litigants are willing so to believe. In his study of the British Empire, *Par Britannia*, James Morris recorded that the elders of an Indian hill tribe involved in a legal dispute sacrificed an animal "to propitiate a distant but omnipotent deity". They explained that "we know nothing of him but that he is a good god, and that his name is the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council".

Today most judges have to make do with

the limited help provided by the Judicial Studies Board. In biblical times, judges knew that they had divine assistance in performing their duties. Moses told the judges deciding disputes between the Children of Israel that they should "not be afraid of the face of any man; for the judgment is God's". Indeed, Moses took to God Himself the really hard cases, such as the claim brought by the daughters of Zelophehad, who contended that their sex should not prevent them from inheriting their father's property. (God gave judgment in their favour.) By his judgment deciding which of two women was the mother of a child, Solomon demonstrated that "the wisdom of God was in him, to do justice".

Judge Learned Hand described how Justice Cardozo (a judge of the United States Supreme Court in 1932-38) arrived at his judgments only after suffering the anguish of indecision in which "like Jacob, he had to wrestle with the angel all through the night". But Cardozo never claimed that the opinions he handed down after such a struggle were blessed with the authority of a court more supreme than that which sat in Washington DC.

In a 1953 opinion, Justice Jackson of the United States Supreme Court acknowledged that "we are not final because we are infallible, but we are infallible only because we are final".

There are undoubtedly occasions on which judges deciding temporal disputes would greatly benefit from celestial guidance. In a United States District Court in 1971, the plaintiff brought proceedings against Satan for causing him misfortune and misery, thereby violating his constitutional rights. The judge dismissed the case because "the complaint contains no allegation of residence by the defendant in this district" and the plaintiff "has failed to include with his complaint the required form of instructions for the United States Marshal for directions as to service of process".

Some judges who have to decide difficult questions of law find it comforting to pray to their God that they may perform their duties wisely and well. Judicial humility is a virtue, whatever form it takes. But for judges to assume, and then assert, that the judgments they hand down come blessed with divine authority confirms the accuracy of Justice Jackson's observation in a 1952 judgment in the United States Supreme Court that judges, other than God himself, "sometimes exhibit vanity, irascibility, narrowness, arrogance, and other weaknesses to which human flesh is heir".

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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ZMB

Firms start ad battle

SOLICITORS are going into battle to find accident victims. They are waging an advertising war in the pages of a London local newspaper over personal injuries work.

The front page of a recent *Camden New Journal* displayed advertisements from four solicitors' firms, each competing for the attention of readers who may have been injured in some way.

"Have you been injured in a road traffic accident, at work, tripped or slipped, or been a victim of medical negligence?" asks Lewis Nedas & Co, while Hodge Jones & Allen says: "If you have been injured in a road traffic accident, an accident at work, tripping on the pavement or through medical negligence you may be entitled to compensation."

Osborne asks "Do you have a claim for personal injury?" and the Luper Part-

OUTS

nership is equally direct in drumming up work. "Have you been injured?" it says.

Organ gift

PETER Carter-Ruck, *entertainment* grise of the libel world, has had his portrait painted by Bryan Organ, the portraitist. The painting, commissioned for £12,500, was a gift from his partners, who



Carter-Ruck and portrait

had the idea as part of their senior partner's 80th birthday celebrations last year.

Mr Carter-Ruck is said to be "very pleased" with the painting, which is now hanging in the firm's boardroom. Anne-Marie Paget, a partner with the firm until she recently moved from London, says: "Peter chose the artist himself. It is a very good likeness. It really captures his energy. He loves it."

Bar balance

AN INTRICATE balancing act is being performed by the Bar Council as it embarks on a consultation exercise to find out how it can improve its accountability to the profession.

A questionnaire has gone out to barristers with this month's *Bar News*. Its importance will not be lost to anyone watching recent go-

ings-on at the Law Society.

David Penry-Davey, QC, the Bar Council chairman, says: "For a busy profession, there is not much daylight between 'they never tell us anything' and 'they keep showering us with blarney'."

"Equally, on accountability, there is a fine balance to be achieved between 'why can't they just get on with it?' and 'this does not have the backing of the Bar'."

Seeing double

MANCHESTER United is not the only team with high hopes of achieving the league and cup double this year. The Grays Inn XI are also hot on the trail of that cherished goal. They have already come top in the London Legal League first division. Next Monday they play the final of the cup competition. If they win, it will be the first time a team has won the double since 1982. The match is at the Douglas Eyre sports centre in Coppermill Lane, Walthamstow, and kick-off is at 7pm.

SCRIVENOR

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STARTING TODAY: YOUR CHANCE TO SAVE UP TO £27 AT A CHOICE OF TWO RPO CONCERTS AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL



The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra being conducted by Daniele Gatti and inset (left) conductor Orwin Arwel Hughes and (right) cellist Lynn Harrell.

Take a friend to an RPO concert — FREE

Today *The Times*, in association with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, offers you the opportunity to take a friend FREE to one of two concerts in the orchestra's inaugural series at the Royal Albert Hall. You can choose

to attend a concert on Sunday, May 12 or Tuesday, May 21. Tickets range in price from £10 to £27, and for any ticket you buy you will be given a second complimentary ticket of equal value valid for the same concert.

The two concerts feature some of the classics of the repertoire. At the Sunday concert on May 12, conducted by Orwin Arwel Hughes, you will be able to hear Holst's *The Planets* with a lady's chorus from the Royal Choral Society and Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* which will feature baritone Thomas Allen. Sunday's concert, Orwin Arwel Hughes has conducted all the UK symphony orchestras, and their respective choirs, and is creator and musical director of *The World Choir*.

Baritone Thomas Allen has performed everywhere, including La Scala, Milan, the Paris Opera house and the Metropolitan, New York. Mr Allen came to the rescue of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, two years ago when, hours after he landed back in London after singing *The Marriage of Figaro* in Los Angeles, he received a

desperate phone call asking him to step in because their singer had lost his voice. Fortunately it was the same role he had been singing in America.

The concert on Tuesday May 21 will be conducted by the Russian Yuri Temirkanov and features Dvorak's *Cello Concerto* and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*.

Yuri Temirkanov studied violin at the Leningrad Conservatoire. He made his debut with the RPO in 1977 and succeeded André Previn as principal conductor three years ago.

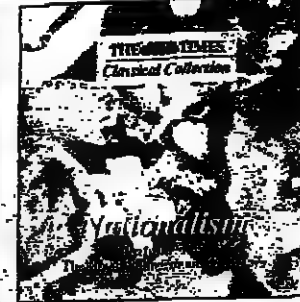
The cello soloist is New Yorker Lynn Harrell who is one of the most sought after performers in the world. He began studying the cello at nine and at 12 made his debut with the Dallas Symphony.

The RPO, founded by Sir Thomas Beecham in 1946, is making its London home at the Royal Albert Hall.

Daniele Gatti, the young Italian maestro and music director designate, will take over the musical direction of the orchestra in September.

He follows a line of distinguished music directors including Antal Dorati, Walter Welles, André Previn and Vladimir Ashkenazy. There are nine inaugural concerts in all and the two to which you can take a friend free of charge are likely to be very popular so early booking is advisable.

HOW TO APPLY
Tick the appropriate box(es) to indicate the price of ticket(s) you wish to purchase. Make cheques payable to: Royal Albert Hall and send with your completed coupon, to: The Ticket Shop, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP to arrive no later than Wednesday, May 8, 1996. Only one free ticket per paid for ticket will be issued.



RPO CDs for just £1.98

As well as being able to take a friend free to one of the RPO's inaugural concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, you can also buy one of its superb CDs for a fraction of the usual price. There are three CDs to choose from: Baroque and Classical, the Romantics and Nationalism. All three offer music chosen and performed by the RPO to give a wonderful broad brush stroke in sound of the three epochs of musical history and capture the sound of a full symphony orchestra with unprecedented clarity.

Today we feature the Baroque and Classical CD track listing. Tomorrow and Thursday we will publish the track listings of *The Romantics and Nationalism*. Simply complete the coupon below and send a cheque or postal order for £1.98 per CD, payable to CD Ltd, to cover the cost of postage and handling. You can also use the credit card section. Send your order and remittance to: *The Times Classical*

Collection, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 10FE. The offer closes on May 8, 1996 and is subject to availability. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

The Baroque and Classical track listing
1. VIVALDI *The Four Seasons*, 1.
La Primavera (5:21)
2. PACHELBEL *Canon* (5:34)
3. BACH *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 Allegro* (5:47)
4. HAYDN *Symphony No. 103 Drum Roll*, 1st movt, *adagio allegro con spirito* (10:00)
5. MOZART *Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major* (7:05)
6. BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 3 in E flat major Eroica* 1st movt, *allegro con brio* (14:45)
7. MOZART *Violin Concerto No. 5, Turkish* (9:41)
Total playing time of CD is 57.46 minutes.

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Chocs away at Clarke's

Veronica Heath on a high-quality chocolate maker who is planning to rival the Belgians



Stephen Nutt, left, and Adrian Smith check the quality of Clarke's of Loch Ewe's Classic selection

The First World War had just ended when a small confectionery business was launched on a kitchen table overlooking Loch Ewe in Wester Ross. Clemence Clarke was able to provide a living for herself and her fiancé, invalided out of the Forces, with her expertise in making luxury chocolates. Today the business, known as Clarke's of Loch Ewe, has a turnover of £200,000. Stephen Nutt, the business's marketing manager, said: "Clemence's spirit still watches over us. Her original recipes form the basis of our range."

In 1988, the business relocated from the west coast of Scotland to a converted primary school in Coldstream, Berwickshire. The owners were attracted by a package of assistance from the Scottish Borders Enterprise.

The business employs 10 full and part-time workers, all of whom are locals. "The majority work here," said Adrian Smith who, in partnership with Mr Nutt, is a company director. Mr Smith is a grandson of the last of the Clarkes who retired in 1991. Mr Nutt was invited to join the team. He said: "Our real breakthrough came when we landed a marketing scholarship from the Kellogg Institute in America in 1994. There were only five scholarships awarded. We were easily the smallest. It was basically a programme designed to help individuals to market their wares — tremendously helpful."

Clarke's is now dealing with inquiries from the United States and Japan. Mail order selections can be gift-wrapped in personalised boxes.

Mr Nutt said: "The manufacturing process is highly skilled and we use only the finest ingredients. All the chocolates are hand-made and wrapped in foil, tissue and distinctive boxes. We aim to be up in the same league as the very best of the Belgian chocolate houses."

Clarke's produces around 70,000 boxes annually, with the retail price of a 250g box at £5.10. Christmas is the busiest time of the year for Clarke's, but business over Easter is growing rapidly after a first move into the Easter egg market in 1995. This year its luxury truffle eggs proved to be very popular.

Mr Nutt said: "We don't plan to be a big chocolate house, but there are plans for expansion and further improvement." He admitted that he had already turned down business that was not required as being in the best interest of the firm in terms of product quality or volume.

He says: "We are looking towards a £250,000 investment into new premises in Coldstream, doubling our factory space and creating some new jobs, and an annual turnover of £1 million by the end of the century."

Clarke's is on 01890 883153.

Employers face some taxing problems

By Robert Bruce

FILE tax forms on time and correctly or pay the penalty. That is the message being hammered home to employers by the Inland Revenue.

Particularly taxing for employers are the forms dealing with employees and expenses. While advice on information on the new demands of self-assessment from 1996-97 abound, employers may find there is rather less helpful guidance on how to deal with this year's forms.

Simon Robinson, a partner at Shipley, the accountancy firm, said: "It has become tougher for small employers. The Inland Revenue became more draconian over this in an effort to make people get down to doing the work."

For example, an error on a P11D form, which details the expenses of directors and other highly paid employees, can give rise to a £3,000 penalty, and if the error is repeated on other forms the penalty can be £3,000 for each.

National Insurance Contributions (NICs), are increasingly a minefield for the unwary. Employers, for example, must pay NICs on amounts paid to meet employees' personal liabilities, like the cost of using a home telephone for some business purposes.

Reportable benefits are diverse and may not be obvious. A company van may be taken home in the evening by an employee and brought back in the morning. Even if those journeys are the only private

use of the van these will count as a benefit. The same pitfalls occur over newspapers, and companies should watch out where they are reimbursing employees for the cost of trade periodicals or newspapers.

Other areas likely to cause problems this year include company cars. The Revenue's new overnight allowance for business expenses and a whole range of benefits in kind.

"It's from my accountant"

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: none scheduled.
Finals: Dewhurst Group, Henderson American Capital & Income Trust, Torday & Carlisle.

Economic Statistics: UK industrial production for February, UK manufacturing output for February, US wholesale inventories for February.

TOMORROW

Interims: Murray VCT.

Finals: Alpha Airports, Charnos, Intermediate Capital Group, Moss Bros, Yule Catto, Reeco, Ruberoid, Sentry Farming, Jefferson Smurfit.

Economic Statistics: UK Confederation of British Industry distributive trades survey for March, UK cyclical indicators for February, German unemployment for March, French consumer sentiment survey for March.

THURSDAY

Interims: Cradley Group Holdings, Prestwick Holdings, Toye & Co.

Finals: Amec, Eagle Holdings, Nurdin & Peacock, Swallowfield, Tudor.

Economic Statistics: UK global trade balance for January, non-European Union trade balance for February, UK final M4 money supply data for February, UK producer prices for March, US weekly jobless claims, UK Staffordshire South East by-election, US retail sales for March, US Michigan consumer sentiment for April.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled.

Finals: Abbot Group, Tracker Network.

Economic Statistics: US consumer prices for March, US real earnings for March, US business inventories for February, US Atlanta federal survey for March, French preliminary consumer prices for March.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Amec escapes to a brighter future



After repelling the Norwegians, Sir Alan Cockshaw is preparing to unveil full-year figures

AMEC: After last year's escape from the clutches of Kvaerner, which has since turned its attention to Trafalgar House, it seems unlikely that full-year figures on Thursday will hold much in the way of surprises.

Amec, whose chairman is Sir Alan Cockshaw, indicated in its defence document at the time of the Kvaerner bid that profits for 1995 would be pitched at about £20 million, compared with £26.3 million last time.

Soon Fulton, construction analyst with Merrill Lynch Smith New Court, is looking for a final figure of about £24.2 million with the final 3p dividend maintained. He points out that rival construction companies, such as Taylor Woodrow, John Laing, Alfred McAlpine and Mowlem, have all weighed in with full-year figures towards the top end of expectations. There is no reason to believe that Amec will be any different.

Amec is not your run-of-the-mill construction contractor. It is heavily involved in specialist areas such as offshore services and maintenance turnkey contracts. This is one of the reasons that Kvaerner was attracted to Amec in the first place.

Its other contract work is expected to have been positive despite the gloomy backdrop for the industry overall. But the real benefit of recent improvements is unlikely to be reflected until the current year, with the group having already forecast profits of £35 million.

Merrill Lynch Smith New Court is looking for a final outcome of £34 million.

NURDIN & PEACOCK: Last week's jump in the share price was prompted by renewed talk of a bid. The last attempt by its 14 per cent shareholder, SHV Makro, was roundly rejected. The privately owned Dutch group, which owns the Makro

chain of cash-and-carry stores, had offered to swap its cash-and-carry assets for half of Nurdin's share capital. It is now free to make a hostile offer should it wish to, and this will no doubt have been behind the recent flurry of speculative activity in the shares. The rival Booker has

also been considered a possible bidder in the past. There is clearly some attraction for these various predators, although you would hardly credit it from the group's performance in recent years, which has been disappointing to say the least. There has been a steady stream

of boardroom departures and the Cargo Warehouse venture was sold off last year to Sainsbury. Any hopes that conditions may have begun to improve were scuppered by the group's recent profits warning.

According to David Stoddart, of Henderson Crosthwaite, there is scope for some improvement in pre-tax profits, but it is likely to be marginal. Profits at the halfway stage were boosted to the tune of £8.1 million by the sale of the Cargo Club business.

Estimates for the full year range from £19 million to £20 million, compared with £16.7 million last time. There was evidence of a pick-up in sales during the second half, but this will have been achieved at the expense of margins.

No doubt the City will be anxious to hear what David Jones, the chief executive who arrived from Northern Foods last year, has got to say about the group's future direction.

At the halfway stage, the group unveiled a 67 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £3.21 million, which was above market forecasts. This time round, the brokers are looking for anything between £9.5 million and £10.5 million compared with £7.4 million last time. Moss Bros is planning to open a further 35 stores during the next couple of years, raising the total to 150.

JEFFERSON SMURFIT: The paper industry has had more than its fair share of problems in the past year, and events there will form the main focus of interest when the Irish paper and packaging group reports tomorrow.

Brokers are looking in a range of £1405 million to £1420 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

All eyes fall on the US

The financial markets will start the week focused on the path of the US economy after last Friday's better than expected March employment figures. Further fodder for the debate about exactly how strong the American recovery might be will come on Thursday with March figures for US retail sales.

There will also be producer prices and consumer prices figures, particularly important to the Treasury bond market, which is in the early stages of paranoia about rising inflation and interest rates.

However, there is also plenty of food for thought in Britain. On the political front, there is the Staffordshire South East by-election on Thursday. If the Government loses, as expected, its majority in the Commons will be cut to one, a development likely to prompt nervousness in gilt and currency markets.

On the statistical front, the week kicks off today with figures for February industrial and manufacturing production. According to a consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International, industrial production is expected to have risen 0.5 per cent after a fall of 0.5 per cent in January. This would leave year-on-year growth at 1.4 per cent, the same as in January.

Manufacturing industry is expected to have grown only 0.3 per cent, reducing its year-on-year growth to 0.5 per cent, from 1.1 per cent in January. Output is still being depressed as companies try to adjust to last year's huge involuntary build-up of stocks. Tomorrow sees publication of the latest distributive sales survey from the Confederation of British Industry, which will give an idea of retail trade in March. Cyclical indicators are also published for February.

There will be more reminders of the weak performance of continental economies. German figures for manufacturing orders are expected early this week and are forecast to have fallen 0.3 per cent in February after a 0.1 per cent decline in January. Orders are running well below last year's levels. Retail sales are also due out and are expected to show no year-on-year growth. German unemployment figures, due tomorrow, should show another rise. The Bank of France holds a council meeting on Thursday and may trim interest rates.

JANET BUSH

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Golf at the Grove

THE Grove in Watford, once home to the Earl of Clarendon and owned by British Rail for the past 20 years, is soon to be turned into a 100-bedroom hotel and golf course by the Levy brothers.

The 18th century Grade II listed mansion, a former BR management training centre, was sold for about £2 million in the wake of rail privatisation. Its new owners, Daniel and Stuart Levy, who also

own the Athenaeum in London and the Rummymede Hotel in Surrey, are currently deep in negotiation with a local farmer who keeps 110,000 chickens on 275 acres of the 312-acre estate. The Levys want to buy him out of the remainder of his tenancy.

Heads in the sand

RUFFLED feathers in the ostrich world appear to have gone unnoticed at Harpers & Queen, which bails valise as the meat of the millennium. Whether you eat it, wear it or

invest in it, the glossy mag informs its armchair farmers: "One such company guarantees a return of 57 per cent, a high-flying investment for an earthbound bird."

Egg found

LONDON'S streets were quieter than they might have been over the Easter weekend, for guests at the Four Seasons Hotel were busy seeking an egg worth £845. Hidden at the hotel was an 18-carat gold egg in turquoise enamel, designed by Sarah Fabergé for the St

Petersburg Collection. It was found nestled between tea and toast on a room service breakfast tray.

EMPLOYEES of BAA, the former British Airports Authority, are getting in a flap over uniforms at a new pub on the Fulham Road. Bar staff at The Tap, named after the farming term for a ram, have been seen in uniforms emblazoned with the motif "BAA STAFF", not unlike those seen at Gatwick and Heathrow.

MORAG PRESTON

Why political risk factor should attract investors

One of the main reasons gilts are out of favour is supposedly political risk. In so far as this relates to a change of government, it is difficult to understand why people do not believe this is already discounted in current yields and spreads versus other markets. Labour has enjoyed a large pool lead over the Conservatives for many months. No governing party has ever recovered such a pool deficit. Given that the election is, at most, 12 months away, investors ought to know that most of the remaining life of the majority of gilts they are holding will be under a Labour government. So why do

some people think "political risk" is a good reason not to hold gilts? It is argued that the time horizon of the market is very short and only once the election campaign is almost upon us will it factor in political risk. However, the Government's majority will be down to one after Thursday's by-election. We may only be a death, a defection or a parliamentary defeat away from a general election.

A more convincing argument relates to the last days of this Government. What last-ditch desperation on policy will they be tempted into? How will the markets react? Even these concerns should be at least partly factored in.

What is the evidence? Firstly, spreads between gilt and

tenor of government ought to be more decisive. With gilts underperforming in recent weeks and the inflation differential with Germany set to fall, gilts look a better bet than most other bond markets. The political risk premium in gilts probably represents an opportunity to buy rather than a reason to avoid them.

There may still be a good reason to be nervous about gilts in the short term, but that has little to do with politics or economic fundamentals exclusive to the UK. The main risk comes from a continuing recovery in world economic activity and a continuing slide in US bond prices. Whether world bond yields go up or down, gilts should, on a relative basis, be one of the better-performing bond markets.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5280 (+0.0018)

German mark 2.2622 (+0.0091)

Exchange index 83.6 (+0.2)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2796.7 (+23.7)

FT-SE 100 5882.8 (+95.74)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave 21471.16 (+64.31)

New York Dow Jones 5882.8 (+95.74)

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Easter is supposed to be about hope and new beginnings, especially for those in despair. There has not been much of it about for those facing economic gloom. Instead, from all sides, they are offered realism. Last week's jobs summit in Lille provided a typical exhibition of this school of thought. It was variously told that the answer lay in sound finances, lower government spending, cuts in welfare payments, more competition, more flexible labour markets, greater labour mobility, more training, faster change and lower wages to cope with competition from the developing world.

Many of these are desirable. Together, they offer a cruel myth rather than a beacon of hope for those who are excluded from dignity, security and a reasonable income from their labour. They are not even compatible with one another.

Stable, non-inflationary growth certainly provides the best background for business and individuals to plan ahead. So it is the best recipe for the dynamic economies of Asia. If stability requires high real interest rates and low economic growth, however, it will not create enough real new jobs. Nor will it make mature economies more dynamic. On the Continent, at least, the rush to meet the Maastricht tests and defend currencies has raised unemployment.

Unless the indigent are just left to their own devices, more flexible labour markets, greater competi-

Cruel new myths give competition a bad name



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

tion, lower pay and labour mobility tend to raise public spending and taxation. The lesson from America, the paragon of flexibility, is that a fast-moving hire and fire labour market goes with high unemployment. Until recently, low-paid workers paid for job creation there, gaining nothing from rising output.

At the moment, America's 5½ per cent jobless rate looks pretty good in Europe, where Britain's 8 per cent compares with 12 per cent in France and worse in Spain. But America has achieved that only after four years of solid growth. It has not done much better in past decades when that 5½ per cent would have been outrageous in Britain and the welfare state was, consequently, affordable. It hardly matters whether a flexible market needs a pool of unemployed to avoid inflation, or that there are just a lot of people between jobs. Compare that with Japan. In Europe, labour mobility breaks down "free" family welfare systems. Lower wages for fringe jobs force more family members into the labour market.

Internal competition and imports from low-wage countries are axing swaths of jobs. The stock market

presses big companies to "downsize" to raise returns and regulators impose ersatz competition on utilities to swap jobs for price cuts. Last week, the CBI/Coopers & Lybrand survey of the financial sector revealed that, thanks to rising competition and computers, nearly half the firms surveyed expected to axe jobs at the same time as they looked forward to more business. This may be good for the economy, but not for jobs, unless cheaper insurance policies, telephone calls and industrial power stimulate higher growth elsewhere in the economy.

Conventional wisdom says that small and medium-sized enter-

prises, or SMEs, create the new jobs. In America, since 1993, the fastest job creation has been in companies employing an average 500 people. State encouragement should be concentrated on such young, growing companies. Even this, however, is not as simple as it seems. True, Leith, the caterer and enterprise guru, told a small business audience last week that the best aid they could get from government would be state subsidies for redundancy payments. Yes, enterprise companies can shrink as well as grow.

If ambitious proprietors of small firms have special protection from regulations, employment laws and both personal and company tax, no wonder they prosper at the expense of leviathans. Big companies are supposed to be fat enough to pay for these social "extras". But they are also supposed to have become lean and hungry. No wonder they are shedding jobs so fast. Either the SMEs should lose their unfair advantage, in which case they might create fewer jobs, or the job-losing giants should enjoy the same derogations, cutting standards.

Given these less fashionable realities, protection was almost bound to

make a spectral appearance at the Lille Talkfest, via the unlikely revival of an old alliance between France and America. Unless someone can find some reason why European economies should grow at a pace not seen since the postwar catch-up period, the unmentionable suddenly becomes attractive. If permanent pressure to adjust to global competition makes poorer workers' living standards more likely to fall than to rise, ensures that jobs are insecure and forces companies to cut employment to the bone, free trade and competition begin to seem public virtues the unemployed can no longer afford.

Britain opposed a code of minimum labour standards for trade, not least because it was the thin end of a wedge that might later be inserted into the European single market. But Britain is the biggest beneficiary of EU protection of geriatric industries. Manufacturing is recovering and unemployment lower because non-EU manufacturers need a base within the EU's walls and English is the language of multinationalism.

Free trade and competition have brought huge benefits to living standards. But they should not be taken for granted. If European governments think these are vital ingredients for success, they must adjust tax, spending and many another policy to make them work for the poor and unemployed voters of advanced countries. There is an alternative. Lectures are not enough.

Jon Ashworth and Robert Miller on the new look at the Serious Fraud Office

Dented image brought to book

The Serious Fraud Office has a seriously new image. Staff return from the Easter break to a newly structured office, based on multi-disciplinary teams, well placed to tackle an increasingly heavy workload. The move marks the boldest attempt yet to shake off an unhappy association with bungled raids, cavalier investigations, and embarrassing acquittals.

Kevin and Ian Maxwell and George Walker are among high-profile acquittals after marathon trials costing millions of pounds. Roger Levitt received a token sentence after a plea-bargain with the SFO went wrong, and Asil Nadir trumped the courts by fleeing Britain before he could come to trial. The SFO enjoys dozens of unsung successes, but it is the high-profile failures that are remembered. Persuading the public to forget will be no mean task.

Under the new look, the SFO has reorganised itself into five teams of lawyers and accountants, each headed by a senior lawyer and liaising with regional police forces across the UK. Team leaders include Robert Wardle, who led the Elizabeth Forsyth investigation, and James Kellock, who oversaw the Barings inquiry.

The threshold for investigating cases has dropped from £5 million to £1 million, and an extension to the Section 2 powers has led to a surge in co-operation with overseas agencies, including the FBI. The new image promises much, even if the continuing reliance on juries makes the outcome of "show-stopper" fraud cases as much of a lottery as ever.

In the past year, the SFO has secured 19 convictions in 12 trials involving 24 defendants. About 70 cases are currently "live", and there has been a big rise in requests for assistance from countries as diverse as Germany, the UK, the Netherlands, America and Argentina. Many of the requests centre on the use of Section 2 powers to seize documents and interrogate suspects. The Government agreed to extend the use of these controversial powers just over a year ago, providing foreigners with a "fast track" means of obtaining information in the UK. The SFO hopes to benefit through increased co-operation in its own overseas



High-profile cases included George Walker, left, Elizabeth Forsyth, Kevin and Ian Maxwell, and Roger Levitt

inquiries. The SFO's approach to prosecuting fraud cases has evolved from the old system of pressing as many charges as possible and backing them up with a veritable mountain of paperwork. Now, the approach is one of simplicity. Fewer charges are put, and are backed up with less, but generally more damning, documentation.

The reforms follow the Davie Committee's report of March 1995, which advised against merging the SFO with

the Crown Prosecution Service. Thus relieved, the SFO set about assessing internal management structure and relations with the police — both potential areas of conflict. Many of the SFO's past problems have been attributed to internal disputes between lawyers, accountants and police.

The immediate changes are the work of George Staple, the SFO director widely criticised for his decision to mount a second trial against Kevin Maxwell. Mr Staple, who

retires in April 1997, believes the SFO is well placed to tackle the next inevitable cycle of serious fraud.

He believes that the five-team structure will help the SFO to cope with its greater workload. Each team will adopt its own group of regional police forces in the hope of improving relations.

Mr Staple insists that morale is good, but admits frustration that the SFO's many successes go largely unreported. He said: "I think the

taxpayer gets good value from the SFO. Before the SFO, these cases weren't done very well. We didn't have the know-how: we didn't have the powers to conduct the investigation. The whole approach was very different."

The increased interplay with regional police forces is witnessed in the ongoing case of Rom Data, a failed West Country computer firm. The SFO investigation, codenamed Operation Gale, was launched last autumn in conjunction

with Devon and Cornwall police. The operation was later extended to take in other companies.

Internationally, the Barings inquiry tested the SFO's new-found mettle. Five years ago, the SFO might well have succumbed to the all-party pressure from MPs and a Commons early day motion to bring Nick Leeson back to the UK. Leeson pledged to plead guilty to false accounting and obtaining money by deception. In a series of "under caution" interviews in his Frankfurt prison cell, he gave the SFO the necessary evidence to secure a conviction against him.

However, combating fraud has become an international effort, and up to 80 per cent of the SFO's caseload involves at least one, and very often three or four, overseas jurisdictions. Under the auspices of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on money laundering, which comprises 26 governments, including the UK, various accords have been signed. These, coupled with other mutual co-operation treaties between different countries, mean that a defendant will generally be tried in the jurisdiction in which the crime is committed. Leeson's activities centred on Singapore, and the SFO argued that he should go on trial there.

The SFO has enjoyed a recent run of successes, culminating in the Forsyth conviction. Mohammed Naviede, the former chairman and chief executive of Arrows, was sentenced to nine years over the £100 million collapse of his business empire. Charles Deacon, a solicitor, got nine years for stealing pension funds from the Belling pension fund.

Apart from conviction rates, it is hard to gauge how effective the SFO has been in fighting fraud. Anecdotal evidence suggests that fraudsters who had considered setting up a UK base from which to launch scams against investors in other countries have been deterred.

Attention is turning increasingly to offshore centres such as the Seychelles, whose local laws have been dubbed a charter for money-launderers. SFO lawyers are having to drop potential prosecutions because of the obstacles placed in their way by small island states. A change of image is not always enough.

KEY DATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE SFO

AUG 1990: Guinness I trial results in conviction of Ernest Saunders, Gerald Ronson, Anthony Parnes, and Jack Lyons. Saunders later takes his case to the European Court of Human Rights.

JUNE 1991: Robert Miller, sole director of Dunsdale Securities, jailed for six years on fraud and theft charges. Freed in March 1993 after serving 21 months.

FEB 1992: Peter Clowes convicted of theft and fraud after 112-day trial. Sentenced to ten years in prison, but freed after four years. Now suing the Home Secretary.

AUG 1992: Final Blue Arrow defendants cleared in one of worst debacles for SFO. First four of 14 defendants found guilty, but cleared on appeal.

FEB 1993: Thomas Ward cleared of stealing £52 million from Guinness. Ward claimed the payment was a success fee.

SEPT 1993: Syed Akbar jailed for six years in the first of a string of Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) cases. BCCI remains a high-spot for the SFO.

NOV 1993: Roger Levitt pleads guilty to misleading financial regulators. Sentenced to 180 hours' community service.

MARCH 1994: Wallace Duncan Smith jailed for six years over £100 million banking fraud.

MAY 1994: Nazmudin Virani, former head of Control Securities, sentenced to

2½ years for hoodwinking BCCI's auditors. Freed in August 1995.

OCT 1994: George Walker cleared of orchestrating £19.3 million profits fraud at Brent Walker. Wilfred Aquilina, former finance director, convicted of one charge of false accounting and fined £25,000.

JAN 1996: Kevin and Ian Maxwell, and Larry Trachtenberg, former adviser, cleared of £122 million conspiracy to defraud Maxwell pensioners. SFO announces plans for second Maxwell trial.

MARCH 1996: Elizabeth Forsyth, former aide to Asil Nadir, convicted of handling nearly £400,000 in stolen funds. Sentenced expected on April 24.

Death, here is thy sting

Venue: Jellyfish, Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

Death will come as an immense vacation to Matthew Parris because he says it will stop him getting answers to all sorts of questions about all sorts of things. Jellyfish, for instance, which occupy the mind of *The Times* columnist as he jogs along the Spanish beach that is bespangled with them. Is the jellyfish capable of nostalgia? Can it experience regret? Jeremy Grange offers little help in his A to Z of the beautiful but often lethal sea creature. Although Parris hates the thought of being snuffed out so soon, even he cannot know how soon. When it comes to the jellyfish, however, this latest edition of *Venue* can measure the span of mortality. Only a bullet, it says, kills faster than the fish some call the Electric Lady.

Making Sense, Radio 4, 8.30pm.

It's all silver-lined clouds in the first of Charles Handy's four inquiries into the changing face of the jobs market in Britain. But he ends his programme with a warning: later in the series, some silver linings will prove to have clouds. In a nutshell, Handy's philosophy is that the "jobs for life" era is over once and for all and that the "actor's career" will replace it in the shape of a succession of short-term engagements with no guarantee of a repeat booking. Handy gives me the impression that workaholics will get short shrift from him. For life to be a balanced whole, he says, there must be time to be as well as time to do.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00pm Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 8.00 Kevin Greening 12.00 Lisa Vannoy, incl. at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nick Campbell 4.00 Dave Pearce, incl. at 5.30-5.45pm Evening Session 10.00 Mark Radcliffe Midnight Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jenny Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hayes over Britain 8.30 Ticking with Ivor 9.00 Can't Stop The Music 10.00 The Elton John Songbook 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05pm Steve Madden including at 1.30pm Pause for Thought 3.00-5.00 Alex Lester, including at 3.30pm Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl. 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.55 The Magazine, incl. 10.35 News from Europe 11.30 Environment News 12.00 Midday with... incl. 12.30pm Moneycheck, 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05pm Ruscoe on Five, incl. 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, with Julian Worringer 6.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, with Valerie Sanderson 7.25 The Tuesday Match 10.05 News Talk, with Nigel Cassidy 11.00 Night Extra, incl. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Robinson 4.00pm Chris O'Brien 7.00 Sean Bolger 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00pm Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Bach (Trio) Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041, Kachaturian (Dance Suite) Strauss (Der Abend, Op 24 No 1), Torka (Tuesday) Berlioz (Overture Benvenuto Cellini, Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 1 in F minor) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Calixto Young, Verdi (Overture: La Forza del destino; Bruch (Kolossale); Chopin (Two Polonaises, Op 40); Handel (Dixi dominus) 10.00 Musical Encounters, Tchaikovsky (Gopak), Shostakovich (The Soldier's Tale, excerpt) 10.25 Artist of the Week: Boris Berezovsky, piano Mediner (Forgotten Melodies No 4 and 5) 10.30 Gabrieli (Ric est ilus de), Mercadante (Decimino 1), Mozart (Chio mi scordi di te, K 505); Berg (Four Pieces, Op 5); Bach, arr. Busoni (Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue, BWV 933); Liszt (Erläuterung transcr. No 4, Macphee) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Georg Muffert, includes: Concerto Grosso No 6 in A minor (Ous hic?), and Toccata No 12 in B flat (Apparatus music-organicus) 1.00pm BBC Festival of Brass, Grimethorpe Colliery Band, Arthur Sullivan (Overture Solent Forts); Philip Wilby (Unholy Sonnets); Wilfred Heaton (Concert Music); Kenneth Downie (Puzzle Variations) 2.00 Stephen Hough, piano, Copland (Variations); Schumann (Kreisleriana), Mozart (12 variations in C on Ah, vous dirai-je Maman); Rachmaninov (Humoresque in G, Op 10 No 5; Melody in E, Op 10 No 3); Tchaikovsky (Humoresque in E minor, Op 10 No 2; Dumka, Op 59); Kreisler, arr. Rachmaninov (Lebedev); Tchaikovsky, arr. Earl Wild (Dance of the Little Swans); Pabst / Hough (Concert Para phrase on Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty) 3.40 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic under Vasily Sinaisky, Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in D, Ballet, The Nutcracker, Act 1 5.00 The Music Machine, Nos 1 in Tune, includes: Robert Johnson (The Wily Wabbit); Hayden (Piano Trio in E flat, H 471); Strauss (Berenice Lieder) 7.30 Helle Orchestra, under Kent Nagano, Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 10 in B minor); Mahler (Symphony No 5) 8.00 Between Heaven and Hell, with Michael Kuslow and Ben Kingsley 9.25 Karim-Gifford Duo, Glinka (Sonata in E minor, Op 25); Paganini (Sonata No 11 in A minor, Centone di sonate) 10.00 Music Restored, Helen Garrison introduces pieces by Mozart, Glinka, Schubert and Rossini 10.45 Night Waves 11.30 Composer of the Week: Franz Schubert, includes: Overture, Die Verjahrgte Fiedler and Piano Sonata in G, D 894 12.30am-1.00 Jazz Notes

RADIO 4

6.00am News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl. 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Tips from Women Gardeners 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Cal Vincent Harris 0171-880-4444 10.00 News; *Venue* (FM only) See Choice 10.10 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 The Scepter 4 Mile (LW only) 10.30 Women's Hour 11.30 All in the Mind, Professor Anthony Clare explores morality and personal values in the first of a new six-part series 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Easton 12.25pm Double Vision, Once again Miles Kington and Edward Enfield go head to head in the radio chat show with two hosts 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Books & Company, In the sixth of eight programmes, John Walsh looks at the best of the season's cookbooks (1) 2.30 Comparing Notes with Brian Kay, looks at English light music with the composers Ernest Tomlinson and Alan Owen 3.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope Double, by Daphne Glazer Being married to a hwn can lead to twice as many problems in life (1) 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 97.9-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 92.2-94.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 683. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 158 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100.102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1065. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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In the spring time... when birds do sing

The Mad Scheduler, a beast locked in a cage for most of the year but released for Easter and other holidays, is consistent in his inconsistency. In particular, his manic approach to programming dictates that the standard junctions of the week will all be moved for the duration.

Thus the BBC Nine O'Clock News can be relied upon to turn up either an hour early or five minutes late and it's News at Ten appears, as it's at 11 (in last night's case). Why is this? The Times does not appear in the afternoon, nor the London Evening Standard over breakfast, just because a holiday has been declared.

Alas, The Mad Scheduler does not stop there. He is also a junkie for repeats and "specials", the usual fodder of holiday times, devices that give the schedules the appearance of mad dress as lambic we must be mad crows to

digest it as readily as we do. And yet, and yet... it should be said in mitigation that one special and one repeat worked triumphantly last night. Another special, a disastrously limp *The Vicar of Dibley*, stained the hearth like a neglected Easter egg trodden on by children.

The good special and the good repeat were back to back on BBC2. First came *Attenborough in Paradise*, a special edition of *The Natural World*, in which Sir David went to New Guinea to find birds of paradise. Rory Bremner is one among several who have paid the mortgage by sending up *Attenborough's* breathless and reverent delivery but I eschew such flippancy: I love the man.

Attenborough is a truly great broadcaster. The tedious facts of the "been there, done that" tendency may mock his enthusiasm but I celebrate it. He is completely at home in front of a television cam-

era, even if he is rarely at home when he is addressing it. Of his generation, only Sir David Frost can match *Attenborough's* extraordinary affinity with the medium.

Attenborough's pursuit of birds of paradise was, he said, a lifetime's ambition. He had a 40-year back, but on that occasion only found the bits of the birds being used as adornment and even currency by natives yet to receive any junk mail from environmentalists.

Now *Attenborough* fared better, after climbing a tree. You find a thin line over a branch (the explained) which had attached to it a climbing rope. At the other end of the rope was a weight, used as a counter balance. As the counter balance moved downwards so the other end of the rope moved upwards, with *Attenborough* attached to it. At the top, birds of paradise in

every conceivable hue, a fabulous riot of greens, blues, whites, yellows. And that was just one of them. A single male in a given group - a flock sounds too prosaic - had his way with all the females. The other males sat singing their protest: "You call this paradise? You call this paradise?"

Elsewhere in New Guinea, the social behaviour of these birds is as different as their plumage.

Lower down, food is plentiful so there is time for hanky-panky. On the high ground, 11,000 feet up, the birds only mate once because there is no time for polygamy: food is short, so both the female and the male have to hunt.

Urban moral: the closer you live to Sainsbury's, the more children you can have.

I thoroughly enjoyed *The Vicar of Dibley* (BBC1) when it was a proper series in which each episode lasted half an hour. Last night's "Easter special" was a loose piece of work stretched to 40 minutes. It showed. Thin jokes followed thin jokes. Dawn French was trying to give up chocolate for Easter. Unfortunately the writers, Paul Mayhew Archer and Richard Curtis, had given up wit.

I fear the dead hand of The Mad Scheduler again: "What was that ratings success we had last year? Thing with Dawn French? Let's have one of those... only longer."

The usual cast was up to the usual high standard, but they were making bricks with the straw on ration. Which leaves me no further excuse to delay trying to write about *Anne Frank Remembered* (BBC2). This was a repeat: it was rushed into the schedules because it won an Oscar recently. If that was an excuse, it was a very good one indeed.

Rarely have I been so moved. Rarely has documentary television, good as it can be, reached this level of meticulous excellence. From the interviews with those who knew Anne Frank, through the narration (by Kenneth Branagh) to the direction of Jon Blair, this is a stunning account of the Dutch teenager's contribution to our knowledge of the Holocaust.

Perhaps the central strength of the film lies off-screen, in its unflinching research, in its determination to find the people who

really knew what happened. They spoke with a shattering dignity and there were so many defining moments that none can define the whole.

This Easter weekend begun with a news report of a grotesque folly: the Polish authorities had allowed right-wing extremists who deny the Holocaust to protest inside Auschwitz. The weekend ended, in *Anne Frank Remembered*, with a survivor from Bergen-Belsen telling how she saw Anne Frank's body dumped with a pile of others after she had died of typhus induced by cruel neglect.

The survivor recalled how she had scrambled among the bodies, trying to close the eyes of as many as she could. How sad that the victims of Hitler lay dead with their eyes open, while 50 years on, the fascist skinheads of Poland live with their eyes closed.

Matthew Bond is on holiday

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

CHOICE

An Obsession with... Rabbits
BBC2, 8.00pm
Nicholas Southgate's film interviews nine people involved in one way or another with rabbits and seldom half an hour passed so quickly. You would not think that one species could spark such a diversity of attitudes and interests. Rabbit lovers will want to Patricia Tilke, who looks after 33 of the creatures at her home and reckons they have a healing influence. Eileen Early uses rabbit fur to knit jumpers, and is forthright about the creature's sexual habits. A show centred on rabbits is a little odd, but the rabbit is a creature that has been observed in behaviour for 12 years has taken DNA fingerprints of her entire colony. For the rest, however, the rabbit is there either to be used (in asthma research) or killed.

Without Walls
Channel 4, 9.00pm and 9.30pm
Nabil Shaban, the disabled actor, launches a lively attack on the treatment of disability in the cinema. His arguments are persuasive. Disability is often coupled with evil (look at the disfigured villains in the Bond films), disabled actors rarely get the big roles and disabled heroes, such as Douglas Bader or Chris Brown of *My Left Foot*, are played by the able-bodied. Shaban also points to a succession of films in which blind women are voyeuristically menaced by serial killers. The deaf brother in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, who is both played by a deaf actor and moves the plot along, is seen as a welcome amendment. In the other half of the show, *Without Walls* also salutes *The Professionals*, though whether the series is a classic or a piece of mindless thugger, sexist and racist into the bargain, will be a matter for debate.

Straight from the Heart: Forbidden Love
BBC2, 9.45pm
In 1940, when the Germans occupied the Channel Islands, Dolly was a lonely young woman living in Guernsey. She fell in love with a German sailor. To her Willi was a person and not an enemy but with a war on such relationships had to be conducted in secret. The couple had a child, were married after the war and are still together 50 years later. But they cannot go back to Guernsey. Dolly and Willi recall their story in the direct, unvarnished and honest style that has been the hallmark of this series. Two other couples tell of falling in love across political and social divides. Harry, a Protestant, met Chris, a Roman Catholic, while he was in the Army in Ulster. They married but prejudice forced them to live in England. Mark talks about his gay partner from Brazil and how their relationship fell foul of British immigration law.

Moving Pictures
BBC2, 11.05pm
Perhaps a shade too long after the event, two of tonight's items carry echoes from the Oscar ceremony. In deciding to profile the hitherto little-known Mira Sorvino, *Moving Pictures* has hit the bullseye. Her performance as the hooker in Woody Allen's *Crimes in the Mind of a Man* won her the award for best supporting actress. Here is Sorvino in person, articulate on herself and the peculiar hazards of working with Allen. Michael Radford, the Briton nominated for the Italian-made *Il Postino*, won no Oscar but the video diary he kept during the run-up to the awards is a revealing insight into how a director can suddenly become a hot property. The third main item, about Terry Gilliam's time-travel film *Twelve Monkeys*, is a standard background bordering on a publicity shot.

SKY SPORTS
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Big fraud
trials to
resume at
BaileyBy ROBERT MILLER
AND JON ASHWORTH

MAJOR fraud trials are set to return to the Old Bailey early in June. Courtroom 12 in the Central Criminal Court is undergoing extensive refurbishment before the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) brings its first prosecution in what it hopes will become the home for future fraud trials.

The SFO case involves allegations of fraud and false accounting against Abbas Gokal, chairman of the Gulf Group, and stems from the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. One charge mentions \$1.2 billion, the largest single sum ever used in an indictment against an individual.

The Court Service, which agreed to help the SFO by setting aside a special courtroom, is installing 21-inch television screens for each pair of jurors. This is expected to help in the increasing number of SFO cases in which evidence is given by witnesses overseas. The court will also have a proper witness box. Unlike Chichester Rents, in Chancery Lane, host to the Maxwell, George Walker and other "black-buster" trials, Court 12 will have separate entrances for witnesses, defendants and spectators.

Chris Dickson, senior assistant director of the SFO, said: "The move to Court 12 in the Old Bailey restores the proper formality and dignity to these trials. It is right that cases of this seriousness are heard at the Old Bailey itself."

The move coincides with the most radical reforms by the SFO since its formation eight years ago. The SFO has been reorganised into five multi-disciplinary teams liaising with police forces. The reforms are intended to increase flexibility and responsiveness.

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Dow dives on fears
of rising inflation

By RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK AND JANET BUSH

WALL STREET share prices plunged yesterday in a delayed reaction to Friday's slump in the American bond market on fears of rising inflation and interest rates.

By midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 138.73 points lower at 5,544.15, a drop of 2.44 per cent. Treasury bonds were off another full percentage point after dropping by about two points on news that the American economy created another 140,000 jobs in the non-farm sector in March, more than double what economists had been expecting.

At mid-session yesterday, the yield on the Treasury's benchmark long bond had risen to 6.93 per cent from 6.83 per cent on Friday.

The stock market was shut for Good Friday, leaving yesterday as the first opportunity for shares to react to the fallout in the bond market on fears that the US Federal Reserve will not cut American interest rates

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again and that inflationary pressures may mount. The London market is expected to react — but perhaps not dramatically — when it opens today after the Easter break.

Stocks dropped the minute the opening bell sounded on the New York Stock Exchange. When the Dow registered a loss of 50 points, circuit breakers — introduced after the 1987 stock market crash — were triggered, preventing trading in stock index futures in an attempt to slow the selling.

Dealers said that the reaction to Friday's figures had been widely expected, that the mood was relaxed and that a rapid recovery was likely.

One trader said: "This was very scripted, very expected. It's as if the market has been there, done that, seen it all before. Most folks are complacent."

Many market operators compared the fall to the 171-point plunge a month ago that was also triggered by strong

employment figures. After that setback, share prices quickly recovered and marched to new highs. This experience is giving the market confidence during the current price fall.

But a growing number of analysts believe that the New York stock market is heading for a more serious setback this time. Michael Metz, equity strategist at Oppenheimer, the fund management group, said: "The underpinnings of the market are being shaken. Although a lot of people seem to think this is just another bargain-hunting opportunity, we are actually heading for a big correction of 10 per cent over the next few months."

David Schutman, market strategist at Salomon Brothers, said: "This is going to be messier than March. We're in a correction of at least 200 points on the Dow — maybe not immediately but over the next few weeks."

With US interest rates apparently at their lows and corporate profits sluggish, some analysts think the market is overvalued and the bargain hunters are on the wrong track. The Commerce Department said yesterday that profits of US manufacturing companies had weakened in the fourth quarter to 5.1 cents a dollar of sales from 5.8 cents in the third quarter.

Nervousness about Wall Street's reaction to Friday's bond sell-off and jobs figures badly hit Far Eastern markets overnight. On the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the 225-Nikkei share average closed down 271.60 points at 21,424.24, a loss of 1.25 per cent. There was also a knock-on effect on markets in Mexico, which are particularly sensitive to developments in the US. At mid-session, the stock market had fallen 1.35 per cent and the Mexican peso was sharply lower.

The dollar held quite steady in New York trading, having been battered overnight in the Far East. At midday, in New York, the dollar was quoted at DM1.4773, up from DM1.4750, but still well below Friday's level of DM1.4842.



Wall Street traders saw stocks plunge the minute the opening bell sounded

Lang leads UK's biggest
trade mission to Japan

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE largest ever UK trade mission to Japan, headed by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, arrives in Tokyo today in a fresh effort to narrow Britain's trade gap.

During his four-day visit, Mr Lang will visit the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to seek more action by Japan to open its domestic markets. He is likely to urge Shunpei Tsukahara, his MITI counterpart, to continue deregulating the economy and remove a thicket of barriers to international competition.

Japanese business leaders, who admire Britain's expertise in deregulation, have invited Mr Lang to talk about the

British experience in this field. In the past year Japan's Government has taken some cautious steps to reduce red tape and improve transparency.

While Mr Lang pursues commercial diplomacy, 135 British businessmen, including senior executives from British Aerospace, Boots and Manchester Airport will establish if the Japanese market has become any easier to crack.

Included in the mission is a 20-strong contingent of garden equipment firms hoping to tap into Japan's expanding market. "The fact that most Japanese don't have gardens, or only a postage stamp, doesn't matter," a British Embassy

official said. "They want to have all the right gear."

The embassy spies rich pickings in the growing leisure market. A nation of workaholics is at last taking more time off. British sales of luxuries like golf clubs and yachts have fallen victim to the stagnant economy, but firms catering to humbler pastimes are discovering a profitable niche.

Japan's growing taste for foreign goods, stimulated by the strong yen, boosted British exports last year by 27 per cent to £3.8 billion. Japanese exports to Britain rose 9 per cent to £9.7 billion. British car sales are rising sharply, but whisky sales have been hit by Japan's discriminatory liquor taxes.

Shake-up in
electrical
retailing
predictedBy JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S electrical retailing sector has emerged as one of the fastest growing areas of consumer spending but margins are set to come under further pressure and another round of restructuring is on the way, according to a report published today by Verdict, the retail consultant.

The report is published as potential buyers consider making an offer for the electrical retailing business of Norweb, the regional electricity company. Verdict expects Norweb to attract widespread interest and believes the two companies that would find it most valuable would be Comet, the Kingfisher subsidiary, and ScottishPower. Norweb has 2.5 per cent of the electrical retail market, about half of Comet's share of 5.4 per cent and dwarfed by Dixons Group's 16.7 per cent.

The report says: "If Comet were to acquire Norweb, its number two position in the market would be consolidated. If ScottishPower won a battle, it would become number two and put a serious dent in Kingfisher's ambitions in the electricals market."

The proposed sale of the Norweb business leaves the field open for Dixons to launch a determined price campaign. Verdict said that it is not clear why Dixons had not already used its advantage to lower prices and deal a knockout blow to weaker competitors.

Verdict also expects further large-scale closures of high street outlets and that already water-tight margins will be squeezed further. However, Verdict expects demand for white goods to improve as the tax increases, rising interest rates and falling house prices of last year are reversed during 1996.

Labour leader seeks to win over business world

Blair sets out stall in US

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

TONY BLAIR is set to launch a bid for the hearts and minds of American investors in a series of meetings and lunches on Wall Street during his visit to the US which starts tomorrow.

One of his first engagements is a meeting at Lazard Frères, the investment bank, with senior US financial figures in which Mr Blair will explain Labour's attitudes towards inward investment and markets. He will have to clarify his vision of stakeholder capitalism to men more accustomed to red-blooded competitive capitalism.

On Thursday he will give a speech titled "Labour's approach to the new global economy" at a lunch hosted by the British American Chamber of Commerce.



Blair: working lunches

Among the 550 guests will be representatives from most of the leading US and UK banks, investment houses and accounting firms.

The lunch will follow a breakfast in Mr Blair's honour at which Henry Kissinger is the main speaker. Mr Blair

has a considerable task ahead of him because most US bankers and businessmen view him and his revamped Labour Party as an unknown quantity. Unlike Labour leaders of a few years ago, however, Mr Blair is not viewed with suspicion or hostility on Wall Street so much as puzzlement.

"People tend to think he is a better technocrat than John Major, but no one thinks he would be radically different," one Wall Street analyst said. "I don't know what the new Labour means," said another.

"It's obvious that Blair would not mean a swing to a radical left government."

Mr Blair is likely to want to allay the concern that traditionally causes ructions in the currency markets when Labour wins an election and will promise not to reverse the biggest Tory changes.

Boost for Bae
as Airbus wins
£1bn China deal

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE is on the verge of selling nearly £1 billion worth of aircraft in China, breaking Boeing's dominance in the world's biggest potential market and guaranteeing large-scale orders and jobs for British Aerospace.

Li Peng, the Chinese premier, will this week visit Airbus headquarters in Toulouse, southern France, placing orders and options on between 40 and 100 Airbus narrow-bodied A320s.

The dramatic switching of favours across the Atlantic is a product of China's displeasure at America's bellicose stance over Taiwan, dogged marketing by Airbus and some adroit muzzling of anti-Peking sentiment by Jacques Chirac, the French President.

"It's a major, major breakthrough for Airbus," said a company source in Hong Kong last night. "A clear message has been sent to the Americans that nothing can be taken for granted."

Industry analysts estimate that China will need at least 100 aircraft in the 150-seat category during the next five years. The

two rival products — the Airbus A320 and Boeing's revamped 737 family — are both in demand, and China must place orders now for aircraft to be delivered in 1998. BAE, which has a 25 per cent interest in Airbus jets at Filton, near Bristol, and Chester.

The A320s will be distributed between China Southern, Air China and Sichuan airlines. The unit cost, with spare parts thrown in, is expected to be about \$30 million, a significant discount on the normal list price for an A320 of \$45 million.

Boeing has sold about 230 aircraft to China since President Nixon's historic rapprochement with Peking in 1972. McDonnell Douglas, whose planes are assembled from imported kits near Shanghai, has nearly 40 aircraft in service there, while Airbus has so far been able to sell just 35 jets to the Chinese.

"The fact is that the Chinese don't like to put all their eggs in one basket," said the Airbus source. "There is a feeling that it is now Airbus's turn; we've a lot of catching up to do."

Pilot run for
work project

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

A CONTROVERSIAL new government training programme aimed at helping the long-term unemployed to find jobs begins in two trial areas today.

The Project Work scheme will be tested in Hull and Medway and Maidstone in Kent, providing 6,000 places over the next year for 18 to 50-year-olds who have been out of work for longer than two years.

But critics have attacked the scheme, saying that those who refuse to enter the programme could have their benefits scrapped.

Eric Forth, the Employment Secretary, denied the scheme was based on the US welfare programme. He said yesterday that he hoped no one would refuse a place on the programme, which involves 13 weeks of help in looking for a job followed by 13 weeks of

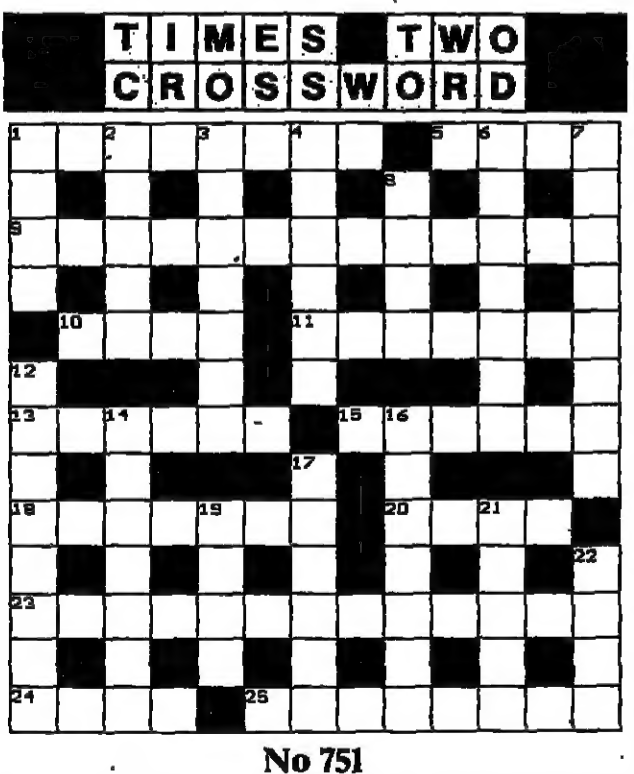
work experience. Mr Forth said: "We just don't think we can have people on benefit indefinitely... Most long-term unemployed want to work and will value the help this scheme gives."

He added: "Anyone who refuses to enter or drops off the work experience programme for no good reason will lose some or all of their benefits."

Mr Forth said that he hoped many people would find a job after the initial 13 weeks. Otherwise, they would be offered work experience, including community and environmental projects.

Ian McCartney, the Labour Party's employment spokesman, said: "This is merely the Government trying to give the impression they are doing something to tackle long-term unemployment."

Graham Searjeant, page 34



- ACROSS
- One asserting title (8)
 - Constituent of molecule (4)
 - Giving-way stage (8,5)
 - Part of leg; climb (rapidly up) (4)
 - Whole number (7)
 - With husky voice (6)
 - Desire for drink (6)
 - Squirrel away (7)
 - African republic (4); (meal) for taking away (2,2)
 - Allowing error margin (2,3,4,4)
 - Meat-in-tortilla dish (4)
 - Restrain in car (4,4)
- DOWN
- Dice shape (4)
 - First Hebrew letter (5)
 - Essential ingredients (7)
 - Holy See diplomat (6)
 - Firing lever (7)
 - Ripeness (8)
 - Catch sight of; tiny mark (4)
 - Slowly remove (from use) (5,3)
 - Self-denying (7)
 - Stressful position (3,4)
 - Lower value, adulterate (6)
 - A garden; a PM (4)
 - Tour leader (5)
 - Inclination; inclined (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 750

ACROSS: 1 Atrocious 5 Feet 8 Go places 9 Peter 11 Lie in 12 Truduce 13 Regime 15 Regent 18 Chucker 19 Optic 21 Ruby 22 Casputi 23 Mien 24 Feckless

DOWN: 1 Angular 2 Rupee 3 Chain-smoke 4 Twenty 6 Execute 7 Three 10 Take to task 14 Grumble 16 Tactless 17 Urbane 18 CD-ROM 20 Truce

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